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## THE TIMES

Can Ulster develop  
a new political  
maturity? Page 14Biggest fall in living standards of  
Britons for 20 years

The standard of living fell in Britain early this summer by 2½ to 3 per cent, more than at any time in the past 20 years except for a few months in 1966, according to official figures

## 2½ per cent drop in incomes may harden union line

Mr Melvyn Westlake, economic adviser to the Government, said that the standard of living in Britain early this summer was 2½ to 3 per cent lower than at any time for 20 years, with the exception of a few months in 1966 when the introduction of corporation tax distorted income figures.

It is now almost certain that the standard of living is virtually unbroken annual fall in living standards since war will be arrested this year. When that trend begins to reverse, it will be perceived by the public as a sign of hardening in trade union attitudes to the Government's pay policy.

Official figures, published yesterday, show a fall during the second quarter of this year of 2½ to 3 per cent in the average disposable income per head. A measure of post-tax income after allowance for price rises and is popularly used

as a benchmark of living standards, although it excludes certain government services and benefits which Mr Westlake, the economic adviser to the Government, has termed the "social wage". That concept covers spending on items such as social security, education and health, as well as subsidies on food and on nationalized industries where price restraint has been exercised.

The social wage is estimated to be worth about £20 a week a head of the working population and appears to have been rising quite rapidly. However, the increase in the social wage is unlikely to have compensated for the fall in living standards. The fall in real personal disposable income during the second quarter is the largest quarterly fall since figures were

first kept on that basis in 1955, apart from the exceptional situation in 1966.

A further fall in the next few months seems inevitable. It was estimated in July, when the £6-a-week pay limit was introduced, that the action alone was likely to cause a fall of 2 to 3 per cent in living standards for a man on average earnings.

Unemployment, short-time working and the loss of overtime is likely to put further pressure on earnings at a time when prices are still rising rapidly. Moreover, payments of taxes on income and national insurance contributions continued to rise by nearly 3½ per cent in the second quarter, a faster rise than that of wages and salaries.

For 1975 as a whole a drop in living standards of between 4 and 5 per cent may be in prospect.

That would be the first annual decline at least since 1953, and would therefore be a radical departure from the trend to which people have become accustomed since the war.

In spite of that there is apparently a strong disposition to save more than usual, presumably because of concern about employment prospects. The ratio of savings to personal disposable income remains at an historically high level, dropping only marginally, to 13.4 in the second quarter from a peak of 14.2 in the first quarter.

Yesterday's figures confirm the sharp drop that has taken place in the nation's gross national product, which fell about 2½ per cent in the second quarter. That means that for every £40 of output (of goods and services) in previous months, only £39 was produced between April and June.

That is reflected in a fall of about 2 per cent in the volume of consumers' expenditure during that period. There has been a sharp fall in the sales of tobacco and beer, as well as clothing and footwear, and in spending on cars. As there is an inevitable lag in the impact that such a drop in demand has on the labour market, that strongly suggests that unemployment will continue to rise quite sharply for some time unless Britain can markedly increase the level of its exports.

The only item of total national expenditure that has shown any increase between the first and second quarters of this year has been public authorities' current spending on goods and services. There can be no doubt that the severity of present economic recession will be far greater than anything experienced in the past 35 years.

17 injured as bomb  
explodes near  
London Tube station

A bomb explosion outside Green Park Underground station, London, last night caused at least 17 casualties. The bomb had been left in a bag at a bus stop opposite the station, a police officer said.

The bomb went off at about 9 pm close to a branch of the Midland Bank. The explosion was heard three miles away.

Mr Roy Martin, who was passing the station as the bomb went off, said: "There was a tremendous bang, and glass flew everywhere. I ran into the Ritz Hotel for shelter."

He said the police were evacuating the area and had cordoned off Piccadilly from Green Park station. The explosion was heard three miles away. At first the police thought some people had been killed by the bomb but later Scotland Yard said: "We have no knowledge of anyone being killed."

Injured included an elderly woman, a man and three Swiss. They were taken to St George's Hospital, Hyde Park corner. Miss E. Stolk, of South Street, Reading, who was near the scene at the time of the explosion, said a car seemed to have been destroyed and windows of a car showroom shattered. Glass was strewn all over the road.

A few minutes after the explosion three cars were seen

speeding down Witton Road, Victoria, about half a mile away. One of them, a red car, sped through traffic lights at red. A man who had the explosion took the car's registration number and gave it to the police.

The blast shattered glass in the windows of the Ritz Hotel and broke a window in the restaurant. The restaurant was closed after a wedding reception earlier yesterday, and an adjoining room was being used for dinner when the bomb went off.

Mr Geoffrey Graham, the general manager, who was in the front hall at the time, said there was "a rather loud, though muffled, explosion."

We brought in two women, who were slightly injured, and treated them in the ladies' cloakroom. One was suffering from shock, and the other had a lacerated leg and an injured hand. A police officer came in and said he was a doctor, but by then we had seen to the wound with bandages. Then an ambulance came to take them to St George's Hospital."

He said the bomb went off about 25 yards from the hotel. On September 22 three people were injured when a bomb exploded outside the Portman Hotel in London. Three days later a bomb exploded outside the Hare and Hounds public house at Maidstone, injuring two policemen.



Mr Reginald Maudling: recommendation on Gozo hospital.

Maudling  
letters  
are cited

By Stewart Tandler

The case of the Republic of Malta versus Mr John Abela, although still only at the stage of preliminary hearings, which resumes on Tuesday, is having enormous political repercussions.

Mr Abela is a member of a well-known Maltese family of merchants, and in the middle 1960s he became the Maltese agent for Mr John Poulson, the architect, later jailed for corruption, who was then the Minister of Works in the Nationalist Government of Dr Borg Olivier, with an offer of £5,000 to party funds in return for a contract for Mr Poulson to build a new hospital on Gozo.

Many of the papers before the court concern letters said to have been written to Mr Poulson on Mr Abela's behalf by Mr Reginald Maudling, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, who was then chairman of two of Mr Poulson's companies.

A general election is due any time before November and critics of Mr Don Mintoff's Labour Government allege that the trial is really aimed at the Nationalist Government.

Mr Mintoff's Government has a majority of three seats and campaigning has already begun. It is not unusual for the proceedings of preliminary hearings to be regularly similar to British court proceedings—to be reported, Mr Mintoff's opponents believe that his Government hoped to use this to keep public interest held on the case as the election drew near.

However, the magistrate accepted a defence plea that reporting would be prejudicial to the defendant when the case came to trial before a jury, and a ban on reporting was imposed. Three times the Maltese Commissioner of Police is reported to have applied for the ban to be lifted, but to no avail.

In the past month the Labour Government has found a way round this problem. MPs, despite the summer recess at Parliament, have requested details of papers in the case. Using parliamentary privilege, Mr Mintoff outlined some of the correspondence between Mr Poulson and Mr Abela and then passed the texts this week to the pro-Government newspaper, Malta News.

The letters before the court show that Mr Maudling recommended Mr Poulson to design the Gozo hospital in 1966, saying: "He is doing more hospitals for the British Government than anyone else ever."

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Mrs Castle tries to  
reassure the doctors

Government policies to separate private practice from the NHS, or abolish it, Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

In Cyril Clarke, President of the Royal College of Physicians, said he thought there was a hope of resolving the present crisis in the NHS now that Mrs Castle had offered the medical profession unrestricted talks.

More junior hospital doctors in Yorkshire yesterday joined the revolt over their new contracts. About 60 junior doctors at Doncaster decided to work only an emergency service from next Monday. They want their former pay and overtime structure restored until a national referendum is held on the acceptability of their new contract.

Dr Sakharov awarded Nobel peace  
prize for defending human rights

Oslo, Oct 9.—Dr Andrei Sakharov, the scientist who helped to give Russia its first hydrogen bomb and went on to become a leading Soviet dissident, was today awarded the 1975 Nobel prize for peace.

The surprise decision by the Nobel Committee was seen here as a test of Moscow's will to fulfil the spirit of the Helsinki agreement on European co-operation and security.

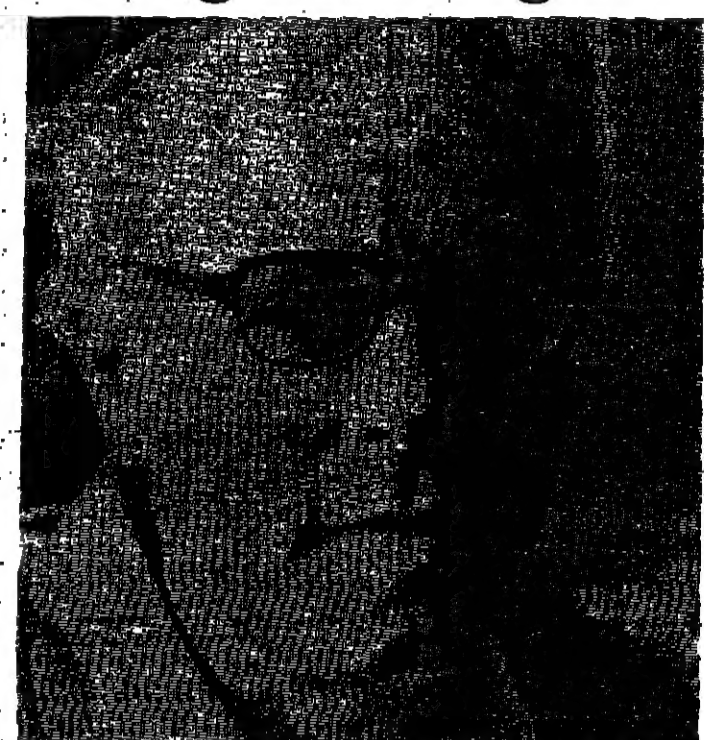
"Andrei Dmitriyevich Sakharov has addressed his message of peace and justice to all peoples of the world," the committee said in an unusually detailed citation. "For him it is a fundamental principle that the world peace can be maintained only if it is founded on respect for the individual human being in society."

Dr Sakharov, aged 54, is one of the most outspoken defenders of human rights in the Soviet Union.

Uncompromisingly and fearlessly, Sakharov has fought not only against the abuse of power and violation of human rights in all its forms, but he has with equal vigour fought for the ideal of a state founded on the principle of justice for all.

In a convincing fashion Sakharov has emphasized that the inviolable rights of man can serve as the only foundation for a genuine and long-lasting system of international co-operation. In this manner he has succeeded very effectively, and under trying conditions, in all his efforts to respect for such values as all true friends of peace are anxious to support," the citation stated.

It added that Dr Sakharov's belief in the fundamental principle of universal respect for the human being had found expression in several international declarations, among



Dr Andrei Sakharov: A message of peace and justice to all peoples of the world.

them the agreements signed by 35 states at the security conference in Helsinki.

Dr Sakharov has urged the abolition of the Soviet method of confining political dissidents to psychiatric hospitals; he has demanded the creation of a sort of ombudsman to guard against prison excesses; he has proposed amnesties for political prisoners; he has sought greater freedom of information and has championed the right of Soviet citizens to travel abroad.

Moscow: Dr Sakharov said tonight he hoped his Nobel peace prize award would benefit political prisoners in the Soviet Union. He told Western correspondents he would travel to Oslo to collect the prize if allowed by the Soviet authorities.

A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry in the Irish Republic said last night they had established a definite contact with his captors. A statement from the Ferenka company came after two contradictory ones from the Netherlands Embassy in Dublin.

The company's statement said: The Ferenka company announce that they have received a message which in their opinion is authentic. In order to confirm that Ferenka have received your message, they are now acknowledging it in public.

Furthermore, in view of the fact that the codeword was recognised, they are satisfied that it was Dr Herrema's statement.

As some of the demands are beyond the company's competence they are now studying the matter further. A little more time will be needed before they can react to the proposals.

After mounting despondency about Dr Herrema's safety, the new mood of optimism began to gather strength yesterday after news that telephone calls had been received.

The calls were the first thought to be genuine since the two put through last Friday, only a few hours after he was seized from his car less than two hundred yards from his home in Limerick. They threatened a 48-hour ultimatum, saying that Dr Herrema would be murdered if Miss Rose Dugdale and two male members of the Provisional IRA were not immediately released from prison.

Throughout the Irish Government has stood firm against the terrorist demands, making it clear that there was no question of political concessions.

But the way was left open for Akzo, the Dutch multinational company, and Ferenka, its Irish subsidiary, of which Dr

Tories want a Europe  
centre-right block

From David Wood  
Political Editor  
Blackpool

By the turn of the year Conservative leaders expect that there will be a European party of centre-right, embracing British Conservatives, the European Christian Democrats, and the European Liberals.

It is seen as an important step towards the Europeanisation of party politics, and a political point is that the socialist group in the European Parliament should not be allowed to become dominant because the centre-right is divided.

Mr Maudling, shadow Foreign Secretary, no more than hinted at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool yesterday at what is being negotiated behind the scenes by Mr Peter Kirk, leader of the Conservative group in the European Parliament.

Mr Maudling remarked: "It is not easy to be certain of what we should do exactly in our relations with the Western European right and centre-right parties. What we clearly must have is a group of the centre-right."

I do not myself at the moment believe a single European party is practicable, but a group to defend ourselves against the power of the socialist group in the European Parliament is extremely important, and I think the time has come to make up our minds clearly about what we are going to do."

The Shadow Cabinet is to form a coalition for a European anti-socialist coalition. In fact, Mr Maudling rather understated how far Mr Kirk has carried his negotiations with

the centre-right parties in the EEC countries to ensure that Conservative Europeanism should not be stultified by the existence of a permanent socialist majority in the European Parliament, which is likely to have its powers significantly enhanced in the near future.

When the Conservative group first entered the European Parliament in January, 1973, Mr Kirk and his colleagues from Westminster decided to keep at arm's length from the Christian Democrats, the European Liberals, and the Gaullists.

But with the arrival, since the June referendum, of 18 Labour MPs as members of the socialist group in the European Parliament, it clearly becomes an important political question whether Europe is to be dominated by the socialist group because the centre-right parties are fragmented and unable to reach any kind of working agreement. Therefore, Mr Kirk, with the support of the Shadow Cabinet, is making a change in tactics.

Behind the scenes it is clear that Mr Kirk has carried the negotiations with like-minded European parties to a point where an anti-socialist majority in the European Parliament will soon be assured, and the significance of the development has to be related to the probability that within the next two or three years the European Parliament will be directly elected and will claim increasing democratic powers over the European Commission.

Conference report, pages 4 & 5  
Diary, page 14  
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Britain making move at EEC to  
give dairy farmers price rise

To help its dairy farmers, the British Government is expected to seek a new EEC arrangement which could increase food prices by a further 1 per cent.

Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, is considering a further reduction of 5 per cent of the "green pound", the

5 per cent increase in the guaranteed minimum price paid to British farmers. Dairy farmers would benefit most because they receive the guaranteed minimum rate, whereas most other farmers can sell their produce at prices well above the minimum. Mr Peart may consider more ways to help dairy farmers.

## Law praised on freer use of bail

Magistrates should grant bail to the unconvicted, defendants unless it could be shown that they were likely to abscond, commit offences or obstruct the course of justice, Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, said yesterday. He told the Magistrates' Association annual meeting in London that legisla-

tion would be introduced in the coming session of Parliament to enforce such a presumption in favour of bail. He said a person should not be refused bail merely because the police said he had no fixed address, and that the length of a remand in custody pending inquiries should be cut.

## Post Office rival planned

An organization of big mail users is to be set up next week to establish a private postal service. The aim is to force the Post Office to take one of the organization's members to court in a test case on the Post Office's legal monopoly.

Because the Post Office Act, 1969, does not define a letter and because the Post Office monopoly does not extend to parcels it is believed that letters can be delivered by private organizations as parcels.

## Spanish officers held for sedition

Three more army officers have been arrested in Barcelona in a sedition case in which military police officers were accused of the death in a Madrid hospital of yet another policeman, the ninth to die in Spanish political violence this month. Two other

policemen, killed by fellow officers during a gun battle with extremists were buried. The Government suspended publication of *Mundo*, the country's second most important news weekly, for printing a picture of the Basque national flag on its cover.

Italy disturbed  
by lawlessness

Italy has become deeply concerned over disclosures about the way of life of youths from some of the "best" families in Rome. The torture, rape and murder of a working class girl of 19 by a gang of such youths, has emphasized the lawless

virus leak danger: Infectious blood samples from abroad, sent by post, have been found to be leaking, two doctors say.

Tests for pilots: Applicants for jobs as airline pilots are to undergo psychiatric screening.

Fuel costs: The Electricity Council is seeking discussions on ways of easing hardships facing people this winter over increased power bills.

Jobs: Suggestions are invited for "job creation" schemes in areas of growing unemployment to be financed through the Government's ERM fund.

Strasbourg: British representatives at Council of Europe calls for more women politicians, who are "more ruthless than men."

Santiago: Chile strips foreign journalists of credentials after a reporter admits selling secret tape.

Ulster Orchestra in London. Features, pages 14 and 16.

A. M. Rendell on the Council of Europe's attitude towards Spain: Philip Howard on new words and new meanings: Ross Davies on women in the professions: The Times European shopping basket. Obituary, page 17.

Professor Walker Felsenstein. Business News, pages 18 to 24. Stock market: Shares had a firm session and by the close the FT index had risen 8.9 to 339.5. Gifts were quieter than of late.

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Shots fired in Oporto  
barracks clash

From Michael Knipe  
Lisbon, Oct 9

The Communist Party and the centre-left Popular Democratic Party blamed each other today for the violence in Oporto last night in which at least 56 people were injured, six of them by gunfire.

The incident was the worst in Portugal in terms of numbers killed since the revolution began 18 months ago and it has increased the bitter enmity between the two parties, both of which have members in the sixth provisional Government. It has also illustrated further the reluctance or inability of the military leaders to impose order and military discipline.

Rebellious left-wing soldiers staging a sit-in at the barracks of the Serra do Pilar Artillery Regiment (RASAP), just outside Oporto, were left unmolested again today by the military authorities. Meanwhile the dissident military rank and file movement, Soldiers United Will Win (SUW), went ahead with plans for a mass demonstration in Coimbra tonight in protest at the alleged reactionary policies of the military leadership.

The third civilian party in the Government, the Socialists, have condemned the Communist Party's open backing for military and civilian dissidents. Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, said last night that the Communists' double-edged policy was intolerable because it was aimed at destroying the Government to which the Communists belonged.

Last night's violence occurred in thick fog during a mass demonstration outside the RASAP barracks organized by the Popular Democratic Party (PPD). The purpose was to display support for the Government, and particularly for the action of the northern military commander who disbanded a military transport unit (Cica)

last weekend because of its insubordination. It was in protest at his action that the rebel soldiers began their sit-in.

With some justification, although in the manner of a pot calling a kettle black, the Communists have accused the PPD of provoking the clash by staging the demonstration outside the barracks.

Civilian supporters of the left-wing rebels inside the RASAP barracks set up barricades to block the path of the PPD demonstrators but failed to do so. According to eyewitnesses, members of both groups armed themselves with clubs and iron bars and a contingent of about 100 apparently unarmed soldiers left the barracks to form a wedge between the two groups.

At some stage shots were fired. Three of the five seriously wounded by gunfire were soldiers, indicating that they may have been hit by crossfire. Both groups of civilian demonstrators blamed the other for the shooting.

The military in the barracks fired blank shots at one point and later sent out a Sherman tank to disperse the crowds, but it was not until military police reinforcements had been called in.

The Revolutionary Council's newly created subcommittee on military affairs met yesterday, clearly to discuss the question of military discipline. No communiqué was issued, however, and afterwards the Army Chief of Staff, General Carlos Fabiao, avoided commenting on the situation.

The committee consists of President Costa Gomes, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the Chiefs of Staff of the three Services, and the commanders of the four military regions. The military leaders are believed to be divided, some of them advocating firm action against the military dissidents and others avoiding if possible.

Contact made with  
Eire kidnappers

The employers of Dr Tiede Herrema, the Dutch industrialist who was kidnapped last Friday in Limerick in the Irish Republic, said last night they had established a definite contact with his captors. A statement from the Ferenka company came after two contradictory ones from the Netherlands Embassy in Dublin.

The company's statement said: The Ferenka company announce that they have received a message which in their opinion is authentic. In order to confirm that Ferenka have received your message, they are now acknowledging it in public.

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Throughout the Irish Government has stood firm against the terrorist demands, making it clear that there was no question of political concessions.

Herrema is managing director, to try to arrange a private case.

It was planned early in the week to offer a substantial ransom for the industrialist's safe return in place of the unacceptable political demands made by the kidnappers. A group of militants expelled from the Provisional IRA for disobeying orders.

For days there was no response to the offer or to the impassioned personal appeals made on Irish television by Dr Herrema's wife, Elizabeth, and his eldest son, Jelle. Then, late on Wednesday, a call that sounded authentic was received by a waiting Ferenka executive.

The call was asked to provide a number of irrefutable clues to prove that Dr Herrema was still alive.

During the day a further note of optimism was struck by Father Donal O'Mahoney, the young Capuchin appointed earlier in the week as a mediator between the Dutch company and the kidnappers, believed to be led by Eddie Gallagher, a close associate of Miss Dugdale.

After receiving more than a hundred calls at his friary in Dublin, Father O'Mahoney hinted that there were genuine grounds of hope for believing that Dr Herrema was still alive. He explained that they were based on what he described as real evidence.

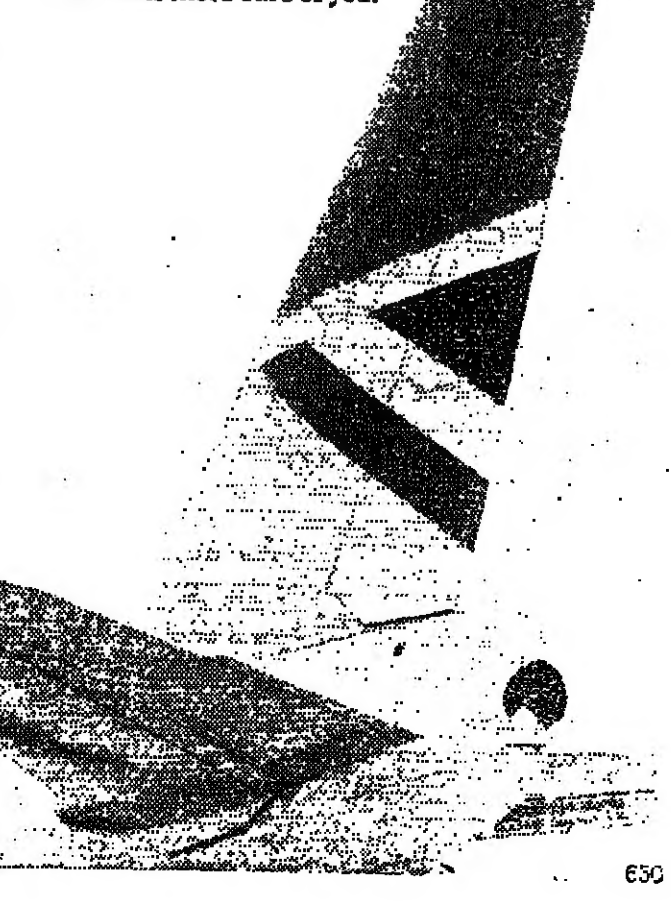
The Irish Government is keeping a close watch on the situation and it is understood that officials are in regular contact with Mr Cosgrave, the Prime Minister, who is in Rome to attend the celebrations for the canonization of the Blessed Oliver Plunkett.

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"Help them grow old with dignity"

## CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE/BLACKPOOL

# Pledge to kill Community Land Bill

Responding to Wednesday's announcement of government intentions for the Community Land Bill, Mr. Roy Gillingham, Conservative spokesman on the environment and MP for Aylesbury, said that by such moves the Government was trying to buy acceptance of "this dreadful Bill".

He made plain, when replying to a debate on local government and rates, that the Conservatives' Bill remained odious in principle. Far too many of the concessions were to be incorporated in regulations rather than in the Act itself. Even with them, it remained a land grab Bill and a burden on local government.

The measure would be repealed when the Conservatives came to power. The party had to find a better system than the existing one for rates.

Mr. Gillingham (Colchester) moved the motion stating: "This conference is appalled at the continual increases in rates and calls upon the Conservative Party to propose policies which will produce a more equitable spread of this burden and effect a stricter control on local government expenditure."

He said an intolerable point had been reached and there was a threat of rate strikes. It was appalling that the party had failed to notice the clouds gathering and to take preventive action.

Rates were being paid on too narrow a basis. The Labour Government was to blame for the bad odour surrounding local government but the Conservatives could also be criticised for the disinclination after reorganisation, mainly because of lack of consultation.

Mr. Ned Thomas (Ilford), moved an amendment to insert, after the word "rates", the words "and the worst result had been that many who had given a lifetime of honourable service had been thrown on the rubbish heap without a pension. Now, the bureaucratic machine was running wild and if the recruitment rate continued it would cost ratepayers and taxpayers more than £300m a year extra. That grotesque increase was an affront to ratepayers.

Mr. Roy Gillingham (Yorkshire Young Conservatives) said there should be a system of local income tax in place of rates and it should be self-assessed to cut the number of officials needed to administer it. To prevent abuse 10 per cent of returns would be rigorously checked and those who would be severe penalties for offenders.

Mr. Gillingham said Conservative policy was aimed at drastic reform of the present rates system and specifically an end to the present system of domestic rates, which had caused much hardship and become so discredited.

The Tories had to find a better system. Many people wanted them to come out now with detailed plans, but that would be a great mistake. They intended to be elected as the next government and that meant being responsible and not coming up with a final view until the Layfield committee had reported.

There was no point in the Tories rushing the fences. A policy group on the subject under the chairmanship of Mr. Keith Speed had made good progress. The group started from the premise that the domestic rate must go.

It was clear that if local authorities did not hold down the rates responsibly the pressure to take away their freedom to fix the rate as they liked would become overwhelming.

There was a tremendous duty on local authorities to behave with the utmost responsibility, and councils had to give a lead. There had been wilful extravagance and soaring increases in staff in socialist-controlled councils in the past few years.

If public expenditure continued to soar inflation would have won. Local government could make their challenge, and the best way to ensure that was to sweep out the socialists at next year's elections. Substantial cuts in staff would be necessary to bring the rate down to a level which would be fair to the ratepayer.

There must be far more restraint in central government about im-

posing new duties and far more evidence that government departments like the massive Department of the Environment were scrutinising their spending as readily as they had asked local government to scrutinise its. But he was sure that they were not. The job advertisements still proliferated and such crises and dangerous extravagance as the Community Land Bill were apparently to go ahead.

It had become clear in the last few days that the Government was trying to buy acceptance of that dreadful Bill by concessions. "Let us make it plain that this Bill remains utterly odious in principle. Far too many of these concessions are to be incorporated in regulations rather than in the Act itself. This is not the way to treat Parliament on matters of major importance, not least to the individual."

The Bill remains a land grab Bill and a burden on local government. The Bill provides for a bureaucratic rigmarole, and let me give formal notification of the disposal of this Bill when we come to power. (Applause.)

The amendment, and then the motion as amended were carried.



Mr. Roy Gillingham: "Odious" land Bill

## Mr Walker sees no swing to the right

From George Clark, Political Correspondent

Mr. Peter Walker, former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and one of Mr. Heath's chief lieutenants in the last Conservative administration, yesterday rejected the view of many commentators that the "Blackpool" conference of the party was swinging to the right.

He said that when the political analysts had studied the speeches of the Shadow Cabinet, stripped of the rhetoric, they would find away from the policies followed by the Heath administration. Mr. Walker was speaking at a lunch meeting of the new Tory Reform Group.

One member of the audience, critical of the swing between the left and right wings of the party, asked Mr. Walker why he had said that the party should not become a "middle-class" bolt-hole, and to explain in view of the Heath government's criticism of the "unacceptable" face of capitalism. "I said he had done with his personal riches."

Mr. Walker replied that it would be disastrous if the Conservative Party were to repeat the mistake which the Conservatives made in Scandinavian countries by seeking to represent purely the aspirations and desires of the middle class. "None of the great leaders of the Tory party has ever done that and I hope the present leadership will not do it."

If the Conservative Party were to go into an election basing their programme on "solving all the things which the middle class wanted, they would certainly win seats like Bournemouth, but they would leave even marginal constituencies in the country."

Referring to his personal wealth, he explained that he had developed his own business, a substantial one, and was now a director of a company. "I am not a millionaire, but when I became a minister he left it and it went public". He had distributed 78 per cent of the profits to his staff.

Mr. Walker was anxious to dispel the impression that the Tory Reform Group was an anti-Thatcher faction. He said it was

an amalgamation of three pressure groups, the Iain Macleod group, and Stag. None of the Mr. Walker had been in those organizations had inspired the amalgamation, he said. The first he heard of it was when the chairman of Stag, of which he was a member, wrote to him about it.

"I would personally not be connected with any organization within the Tory party whose objective was to snipe, or undermine, or ever was the leader of the Conservative Party," Mr. Walker said. For 18 years, he was a national leader of the Young Conservatives, later as a member of the Cabinet, he had appeared on the platform of the annual conference (though not this year, because he was now chosen by Mrs. Thatcher to be a member of her frontbench team).

He always considered that one of the great assets of the Tory party was that it remained far more united than Labour.

"Although there are those who feel it is good and healthy to have strong differences within the party, I consider that the elements are unity about the party's overall government to a party which appears to be permanently divided."

When the merger of the three groups took place, Mr. Walker said, he was told that it was likely it would be headed as a coalition of the Young Conservatives, the "Thatcherites" and therefore the new leader sent a message of good wishes to the merged organization.

Mr. Walker commented on the speech by Sir Keith Joseph at the conference in which he suggested that the party should move from the ground to the common ground.

"I am not quite certain what that meant," Mr. Walker said. All I am concerned about is that the party should be united and say one, we are a down-to-earth party.

"I deplore the massive extension of public ownership which has taken place in recent years, so that we are now in a position where 51 per cent of the gross national product goes to the public sector."

Doctors were driven overseas by government policy? The public understood the shortage of resources, but they would not understand if the Government, at a time when many people were in undoubted need and were being asked to go short, did not take the most stringent measures against those who abused the social security system.

The last Conservative government started a successful drive against fraud and abuse. When the Tories returned to power they would review the size of the national health service with a view to policies that were fair.

The system was a jumble of rules, abuses by doctors who were not helped and not understood by many people who did need help. The party must work to help, to make the system fairer and simpler, and that system was the national health service.

Nothing had been more discreditable for the Government than its failure to help the self-employed. He could tell the self-employed that the burden of national insurance would be fairly shared under a Tory government. Benefits would be fairly given and the self-employed would get a fair deal.

The challenge was to work towards a society that was fair and humane. It was a challenge to produce one nation, and one that the party must meet. The motion and the amendment were carried.

## Attack on Mrs Castle, 'midwife of chaos'

The bitter attack launched upon the Government and in particular the activities and policies of Mrs. Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, earned Mr. Norman Fowler, chief spokesman of the Conservative Party, a standing ovation from the conference.

He said that in Whitehall Mrs. Castle was known as the midwife of chaos.

Mr. Fowler, replying to the debate on the social services, said the charge was that, faced with serious difficulties in the health service, the Government had by deliberate policy, from pay cuts to agency nurses, made the position infinitely worse so that the service faced a crisis.

Mr. Fowler said that the next Conservative Government should re-examine the social security system as a whole to ensure that benefits were directed to those in real need and to plug loopholes allowing many abuses of the system.

She said that it had become a national pastime to claim national security and some people were very clever at it. Dr. David Todd (York) moved an addendum attacking the damage to the National Health Service resulting from doctrinaire policies of the Labour Government and calling on the next Conservative government to re-establish an effective health service based on the highest standards of medical care. The service should be free of

political ideology, and have freedom of choice for the patient and for practitioners.

Miss Gloria Oldfield (Merton), a nurse, said she was angry with Mrs. Castle, who appeared so irresponsible and ill advised (although she was not in fact ill advised) as to bring dangers to patients and prevent nurses from looking after their patients to the best of their ability.

"I am angry that she is putting patients' lives in jeopardy apparently without any care at all. Mrs. Castle was never so bad as she is now in the NHS, where they feel that the people at the top do not care but are trying to prevent us doing our work."

Mr. F. D. Skidmore, a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Manchester, said the medical profession was being asked to ensure that it had professional freedom to organize its hospitals and treat patients in the most humane and economical way. The attempt by Mrs. Castle to impose her own left-wing political dogma on the health service was sinister.

She has forced us to attempt to control extra-parliamentary staff unions to take the law into their own hands. It was monstrous to attempt to control doctors where and when they should treat their patients.

The results of Mrs. Castle's policies were plain to see. Real listed consultants went abroad and famous physicians publicly advised

young graduates to emigrate. Accident services closed, heart units curtailed their operations, and respite care for the aged was cut. Mrs. Castle is trying to make our hospitals places of strife rather than centres of calm excellence.

Mr. Norman Fowler (MP for Sutton Coldfield), said Mrs. Castle was once the transport minister who could not drive and she had brought that same degree of personal skill to every government department she had entered. She was never so bad as she is now in the NHS, where they feel that the people at the top do not care but are trying to prevent us doing our work."

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Mr. Michael Harris (chairman of Young European Democrats) said a European democratic party was needed to fight socialism. Conservatives who did not believe that British people should have votes for the European Parliament should not be at the conference as members of a democratic party.

Mrs. Jackie Lisaght (Wales area chairman of the Women's Advisory Committee) said that in the years to come the people would face five and six-figure elections. That would be impracticable.

Mr. Nicholas Beck (Hove) said the public must be shown that they had a part to play in Europe. Mr. Scott-Hopkins said the socialists were getting together determined in their ideals for forming a socialist Europe. The Conservatives had to do the same. The party had been discussing with the Christian Democrats and others on how to get together in the European Parliament.

Although it is not always the case, those who travel to Blackpool for party conferences, there is always a minority anxious to delve beneath the surface of the party's official line and discover something of the policies and commitments of their leaders.

More than one speaker has appealed to the party to state the policies which the next election will be fought. "We are being asked to fight a battle without weapons," one late representative complained. With a militant turn of phrase, Mr. Michael Antram said that the battle trumps to sound, Mr. Antram from Scotland, said that although Conservatives might survive without policies in England that would not do so in the border, where the battle was being fought on two fronts, against both Labour and the Scottish nationalists.

Struggling through the jungle of words that invariably on the occasion of policy statements, the Conservatives had promised land will have discovered the basic structure of the next election manifesto.



## HOME NEWS

## Talks sought on easing hardships of fuel bills

By a Staff Reporter

The Electricity Council said yesterday that it wants an early meeting with state and voluntary bodies to discuss the hardship consumers will face with higher fuel bills this winter.

No date has been set, but the request comes after a review of the supply industry's arrangements for helping customers. The council said the liaison system, set up three years ago with the Department of Health and Social Security and the National Council of Social Services, for postponing disconnections while hardship cases were identified and helped, had worked well.

This winter the domestic price of electricity will have nearly doubled compared with the price two years ago. The council said it would continue to cooperate with customers in genuine difficulty and pressure to make an effort to pay. All boards offered pay-as-you-go schemes, which include monthly bank orders and zero payments, weekly or monthly cash facilities and savings stamps.

The industry would ensure that advantage was not taken of its efforts to help those in genuine need by anyone deliberately trying to avoid payment. Boards had a duty in fulfilling their commercial and financial obligations to protect the general body of consumers against bad debts.

## Psychiatric screening for new airline pilots

By Arthur Reed

Young applicants for jobs as airline pilots will undergo psychiatric screening as soon as it is practicable, Dr Geoffrey Bennett, chief medical officer of the Civil Aviation Authority, told a conference on aviation medicine yesterday.

"It is apparent that our initial licensing examination procedures do not detect those individuals prone to breakdown under the stress of an airline pilot's way of life," he said.

"How those middle-aged pilots who need help can best be reached is a much more difficult question, to which we have not yet found an effective answer."

Dr Bennett told the conference, which was organized by the British Air Line Pilots Association (BALPA), at Heathrow airport, that psychiatric stress was common in aircrew and that 50 to 60 per cent of

accidents were attributed to human failure.

There was a strong case for improving prediction of the future on both safety and economic grounds. There were one or two cases of acute heart attack in commercial aviation every year, mostly in the climb-out or approach, and landing phases, because of the way the circulation was affected by flying.

About a quarter of these incidents led to an accident, in spite of the presence of a second pilot. Alert, trained crews were the most effective preventive measure, but any medical contribution to preventing the incident in the first place must be desirable.

Routine medical examinations of pilots cost both the pilots and the aviation authority a great deal of money, "and neither party is getting the best value for this". The system was

leading to much unnecessary waste. As well as the personal tragedies to the individuals and their families, cardiovascular disease, which was essentially preventable, probably cost the United Kingdom airlines about £4m last year.

The Civil Aviation Authority had asked the Royal College of Physicians to advise it on the changes that could most usefully be made in the procedures in Britain, and the report of a working group should be available in December.

"We have no intention of making the actual medical standards any stricter," Dr Bennett said. "Our present evidence is that they are already strict enough. What we are after is earlier diagnosis of the potentially serious disorders we know to be common in aircrew, at a stage when something can be done about them."

Captain Peter Harper, vice-

chairman, BALPA technical committee, said that the present preoccupation of the CAA was with the alcoholic pilot. There used to be "one or two", but anything like as many now.

The airlines for which he worked seemed intent on turning the draught bear drinker into a teetotaler. On certain rosters, taking into account the fact that pilots were not allowed to drink eight hours before they flew, it was possible to go for a week without alcohol.

"This may be no bad thing. However, alcohol undoubtedly tends to relax the off-duty pilot, and all of our long-hauling colleagues are well aware of the value of the two cans of instant sleep which they tend to take before they settle down after an eight-hour time change to try to get their poor, confused bodies into a state where they are able to sleep," he said.

## Electric taxi has range of 100 miles a charge

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

Lucas Industries, the electric group, has developed Britain's first purpose-built battery powered taxi. It has a top speed of 55 mph and a range of 100 miles on one charge.

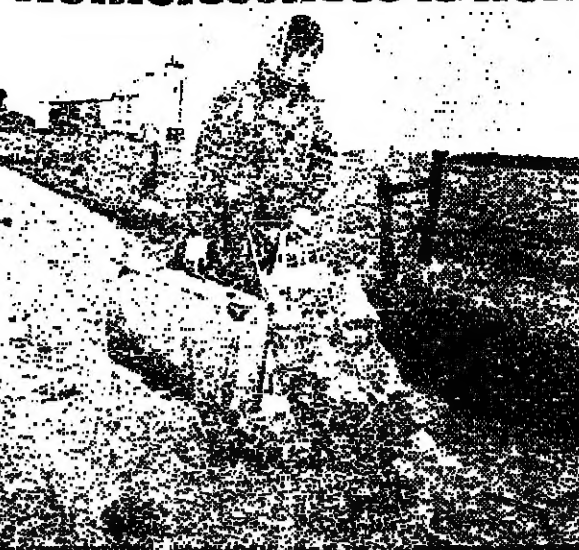
Two prototypes have been built to the specification of the Metropolitan Police public carriage office. They are 40 inches shorter than the present London taxi but have the same turning circle and more room inside. Advantages claimed for the vehicles are that they are almost silent and free of pollution.

One will be at the London Motor Show next week on the stand of David Ogle, of Letchworth, its designer; the second will be available for demonstration runs.

The cab trade gave advice during development and the prototypes have been driven by taxi drivers.

The company says electricity is much cheaper than the diesel fuel used to power present London taxis, though the cost of replacing batteries would have to be taken into account. Battery electric vehicles generally need less maintenance than diesel or petrol-engined ones. A 50 brake-horsepower 216 volt motor is mounted transversely at the front of the vehicle, driving the front wheels. Lightweight high energy lead-acid batteries are carried in a detachable tray under the floor.

## Homelessness is hell



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SHELTER National Campaign for the Homeless

86 Strand, London WC2R 0EG.

SHELTER Scotland, 6 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AH.

## Teachers appeal to minister over £1.2m cuts

By a Staff Reporter

Teachers in Bromley, south-east London, have appealed to Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to prevent the borough council from making cuts of £1.2m in proposed expenditure on education in the current year and in 1976-77.

In a letter published today the Bromley Teachers' Association urges him to consider whether Bromley council has acted unreasonably under section 68 of the Education Act, 1944.

"It is our view that it is

unreasonable for the local authority to make cuts which will seriously affect the basic educational provision in all maintained schools, while at the same time substantially increasing its expenditure on places in direct-grant and independent schools," the letter says.

The association maintains that the cuts are far more than is required to comply with the recent Government circular, which stated that local authority expenditure must not be increased in real terms in 1976-77. It calculates that the proposed cuts will lead to a 4 per cent reduction in real terms

In educational expenditure in the borough.

The association also points out that the proposed cuts will lead to a deterioration in the ratio of teachers to pupils, which is the worst in London and among the least favourable in the whole country.

However, the main focus of the teachers' anger is the council's plan to send an extra 175 children to direct-grant and independent schools in 1976-77. At present Bromley council pays for 1,010 children to attend non-maintained schools. More than a hundred children from the Inner London Education

Authority are attending Bromley schools, which shows, the teachers argue, that there is no shortage of places in maintained schools to justify the resort to independent school places.

The cost of sending those children to non-maintained schools will rise from £465,000 in the present year to £565,000 next year, they calculate.

Mr Keith Pawsey, chairman of Bromley Education Committee, said yesterday that the cost differential was minimal. He added that "the authority's decision is one for our own discretion and not for the Secretary of State".

## No profit from being lord mayor, defendant says

From Our Correspondent

Stoke-on-Trent

Arthur Cotton, a former lord mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, accused of making false expenses claims to his council, denied at Stafford Crown Court yesterday that he had made a profit out of being lord mayor.

Mr Cotton, aged 53, manager of the Green Star public house, Taperant Way, Smallthorne, denied two charges of obtaining £413.75 by deception from Stoke City Council.

He told Mr Piers Ashworth, QC, for the defence, that he paid £7 a week to his wife to look after his public house while he was away on council duties, and after consulting the deputy town clerk he claimed £180 back from the council.

Mr Charles McCullough, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Cotton's wife was paid an honorarium of £4 a week by Bass Worthington, which owned the public house.

Mr Cotton said: "I understand that the money was to cover my wife for my day off only. I was bringing her wage up to what I thought was a fair one."

He said he had no receipts or proof that he had paid his wife, and said: "I would have thought her word was proof enough."

Replying to a suggestion by Mr McCullough that he had made a profit out of being lord mayor, Mr Cotton said: "It was a wonderful honour, but I cannot see anyone making a profit out of it. My bank balance says I did not make a profit during that year of office. I believe that I signed those claims legitimately and honestly. I have never been dishonest in my life."

Mr James Westwood, leader of the Stoke Council, said: "Mr Cotton is a very good councillor. He is able, intelligent, and honest. He would not have thought he would have claimed more than he was entitled to." The trial continues today.

## Head of 'Chinese connexion' gets nine years

By Our Medical Correspondent

The head of the "Chinese connexion", a £2m drug trafficking ring, was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday to nine years' imprisonment. Five other men involved in what Judge Ross, QC, called "a crime of a particularly evil character" were sentenced to terms ranging from two to seven years.

The judge told them: "It is a case of cupidity founded on the weakness and folly of the drug addict."

All six men admitted offences of trafficking in morphine base, the raw material for heroin, smuggled into Britain from their native Hong Kong.

Kwok Leung-chung, aged 46, a restaurant owner, of Halford Road, Hereford, pleaded guilty to being concerned in offering the drug and being in possession with intent to supply it.

As the ringleader, he was sentenced to nine years and ordered to pay two thirds of the prosecution costs. His Mercedes car, which was used in the drug operations, was confiscated.

Two of his brothers, Kwok Kwong-chung, aged 34, a chop suey bar manager, of Great Barr, Birmingham, and Tin Leung-chung, aged 37, a professional gambler, of Cheltenham, were jailed for six and seven years respectively.

Chung Shung-ise, aged 42, a club owner, of Manchester, and Sul Yeung-wong, aged 40, a croupier, of Blackburn, received seven and six-year sentences respectively. Shang Chan, aged 40, a cook, was jailed for two years.

The judge commended Det Chief Inspector Anthony Rich, deputy head of Scotland Yard's drug squad, and other officers who penetrated the ring. Their efficient work had "stopped a source of heroin in this country of fearful potential", he said.

## Vasectomy the easiest form of sterilization

By Our Medical Correspondent

The after-effects of female sterilization are far more troublesome than those of sterilization of men, so couples who want to have children should be encouraged to opt for vasectomy, according to an article in *The Lancet* today.

A group of Hampshire gynaecologists investigated the effects of the sterilization of 454 women and 143 men on the health of the couples concerned. About a third of the women who were sterilized reported heavier periods, and pain at menstruation; such complaints were much less frequent among wives of sterilized men.

The report suggests that the usual operations for female sterilization may interfere with the blood supply to the ovaries, causing their degeneration and later menstrual upsets.

An alternative surgical technique that did not damage the ovarian blood supply might cause fewer long-term ill-effects, but an easier solution would be the wider use of vasectomy.

*The Lancet* (October 11, page 699).

## Union leader's mother dies

Mrs Janet Daly, aged 72, the mother of Mr Lawrence Daly, secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, died on Wednesday night in a Dufferin Hospital, unaware that her son had been seriously injured in a road crash on his way to visit her.

Her death came a week after the accident on the A74 between Glasgow and Carlisle, in which Mr Daly's brother, James, aged 32, and sister-in-law, Aileen, were killed. Doctors kept the news from Mrs Daly. Mr Daly is still seriously ill.

## BBC defends disc jockey on advertising complaint

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC has defended a disc jockey after a complaint by an MP that the names of companies were mentioned on the David Hamilton show.

Mr Douglas Muggieridge, controller of BBC's Radios 1 and 2, has written to Mr Mervyn Madsen, Labour MP for Sunderby, saying that every attempt was made to exclude gratuitous advertising from the show. Mr Madsen had complained that the names of companies were mentioned by staff working in shops.

Mr Muggieridge said: "The whole purpose of requests of this kind is not only to estab-

lish a direct relationship between the listener and the programme but also to identify the individual within the community in which he or she lives or works. The use of an address is important. Since references to shops or firms that occur in the programme are made solely in such a context, we do not believe their use is in conflict with the BBC's constitutional obligations under the licence and agreement."

The BBC continued to take its policy over incidental advertising seriously, Mr Muggieridge continued. It was important to conduct regular reviews on policy, and the BBC was in the final stages of a study.

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# BRITISH GAS





## HOME NEWS

## Home Secretary says use of bail will be liberalized by law

By Marcel Berlins  
Legal Correspondent

Magistrates should apply a presumption in favour of unconvicted defendants being granted bail, Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, said in London yesterday. Addressing the annual meeting of the Magistrates' Association, Mr Jenkins said that legislation to make such a presumption law would be introduced in the coming session of Parliament. However, he urged magistrates to apply it immediately.

"In practice that would mean that the courts would have to consider bail whether or not it had been applied for, he said. The court would have to grant bail unless it thought the defendant likely to abscond, commit offences or obstruct the course of justice."

Mr Jenkins welcomed the tendency in recent years for magistrates to grant bail in proportionately more cases. That proportionate improvement had been swamped by sheer numbers, however.

"None of us can afford to be complacent about a situation in which more than 51,000 unconvicted men and women were last year imprisoned at some stage before their trial. That figure is not only the highest it has ever been, proportionately the recent increase has been greater in that category of prisoner than in any other."

It is also a matter for particular concern that the highest proportion of prisoners in custody do not ultimately receive a custodial sentence."

Mr Jenkins emphasized the need for more and better information about a defendant, to help magistrates in deciding whether he was likely to attend for trial. He announced that he had issued a circular requesting courts to set up information gathering schemes to

that end, after a successful experiment in inner London magistrates' courts.

Ultimately the aim should be to ensure that a person is remanded in custody without having had accurate information about his community ties presented to the court (unless, of course, he has refused to be interviewed).

The Home Secretary said no one should be refused bail merely because the police said he had no fixed address. A person in furnished rooms or a hostel should not necessarily be considered a bad bail risk.

Even when a defendant genuinely had no settled address at night still be possible to grant bail, on condition that he resides with a responsible relative or friend, or at a bail hostel, Mr Jenkins also called on magistrates to exercise discretion in requiring sureties, and suggested that they should give reasons "in a simple, speedy and common sense way" when they refused bail. They had been suggested by a recent working party on bail.

Remands could be reduced to three days instead of the usual week while, for instance, the length of remand should depend on how long the police said they would need to make their inquiries.

More generally, the Home Secretary said the police service was the first priority in facing rising crime with ever scarcer resources. "Research suggests strongly that it is active and efficient policing, not heavier sentences and penalties, which can make the most direct, immediate, and effective impact upon crime."

Legislators were free to choose what behaviour should be made criminal. "We have in the past made too unthinking use of the criminal sanction a trend I should like to see halted and where possible reversed."

Legal monopoly to be challenged on basis of loophole in Act that fails to define a letter  
Big mail users plan private rival postal service

By Michael Horsnell

A legal wrangle over the difference between a letter and a parcel may soon add a new dimension to the furor that has followed the Post Office's recent mail charge increases.

An organization of big postal users which will be officially formed next week will consider forcing the Post Office to take one or more of its members to court in a test case after organizing a private delivery service.

The Post Office operates under the monopoly provisions of the Post Office Act, 1969, which prevents privately run letter delivery services. But that monopoly does not extend to parcels, and because the Act does not define a letter adequately some big customers of the Post Office believe there are grounds for saying that some letters can be treated as parcels and privately delivered.

Mr Robin Fairlie, a director of the *Reader's Digest*, which at 80 million items a year is believed to be the Post Office's biggest user, will be helping to found the Mail Users' Association on Tuesday. One of its main functions will be to coordinate private methods of mail distribution.

Mr Fairlie asked yesterday: "What constitutes a letter? It is not defined and there is little case law, so the area is beset with pitfalls. Must a letter carry a salutation? Must it be in an envelope? What is an envelope? The Mail Users' Association will have to consider testing the law. There are few precedents."

Mr Fairlie regrets his militant attitude and emphasizes that his purpose is not to challenge the Post Office's monopoly on letters. He told me: "We believe in the need for a strong and healthy Post Office. However, it seems to me increasingly that

Government must be made to realize it is forcing the Post Office to cut its own throat."

The first job to be done in helping it is to somehow educate the Government to become aware of the problems of the Post Office and its users. The Government is insisting that the Post Office should cut its own throat."

The Post Office has not been involved in litigation over challenges to its monopoly for many years, and an official yesterday regarded Mr Fairlie's point of view as interesting. He added: "On the definition of what is a letter, it would have to be a matter for the law to decide."

The Post Office, which has announced increased charges twice this year, is already concerned about a drop in business, and the threat of possible legal action over its monopoly will

make the situation worse. Only 35 per cent of letters are now sent first class, compared with 46.2 per cent before the price increase in March. About 8 per cent less mail, based on the 1974-75 total of 10,566 million items, was posted after March and the reduction after last month's rise is estimated at 31 per cent.

The Post Office has no figures on the extent to which mail is being delivered by business organizations and individuals, but the official added: "We are keeping a constant watch in this direction. We take a serious view of any action that is a circumvention of the Act, though it is not the Post Office's job to interpret the law."

While the figures indicate that after price increases most people send fewer letters and use the second-class post more, many economy measures are being attempted, some of them illegal.

The BBC is one organization that now sends several letters and press releases in a single envelope to *The Times* for the newspaper to distribute inter-

ally to different departments. Instead of individually, that is legal, according to the Post Office, unless the collective package is overweight. But the plan of Mrs Hazel Pinder-White, of Broadstairs, to beat the price rises is illegal. She intended to organize a free Christmas postal service for elderly people, and found 50 local inhabitants who were prepared to collect cards from them. Mrs Pinder-White, who is now appealing to the Postmaster General, was reminded by the Post Office that the penalty for handling mail that does not go through the Post Office is £5 a letter.

It is not illegal, however, to collect a card from a "friend" and deliver it, and Mrs Pinder-White is now considering starting a "Deliver a Card for your Friend" campaign in Broadstairs.

Her attitude is perhaps a little more inventive than that of the National Consumer Protection Council, which reacted angrily to the Post Office's announcement that it is illegal for scouts, youth clubs and other

groups to run private delivery services for Christmas mail. Mrs Regina Dollar, the council's national organizer, told me: "We want the Post Office monopoly broken. Consumers should boycott it to the point of not sending Christmas cards. There has to be a retaliation. An appeal to the Post Office by the council for a flat-rate 5p post to help old-age pensioners over Christmas has been refused."

A large number of business organizations prefer a more diplomatic approach to the problem of the increased costs. Mr Terence Donnelly, a director of Freemans' mail order company, said that in a full year the increases might mean an extra £4m on its postal bill if the company does not take action.

Mr Donnelly, who supports the Post Office monopoly, will soon be renegotiating new contracts for the parcels the company sends, and hopes that the Post Office will also eventually accept the new concept of offering contract terms for letters.

## Leader of smallest state arrives in London

By a Staff Reporter

The Prince and Grand Master of the smallest and most remarkable sovereign state in Christendom retraced historic footprints in London yesterday.

His Most Excellent Highness Fra Angel de Mojana di Colonna, seventh Prince of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, revisited the old London headquarters of the Knights of Malta, St John's Gate, Clerkenwell. He was received there by the Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Most Venerable Order of St John, the Protestant branch of the Knights of Malta, established by Queen Victoria, which runs the St John Ambulance and maintains the great ophthalmic hospital in Jerusalem.

Only two previous visits have been made by grand masters to St John's Priory: in 1185 Roger des Moillans came to appeal for a new crusade to secure the Holy Land, and in 1528 Philippe de Villiers de L'Isle Adam came to seek English aid for the recovery of Rhodes.

The Grand Master is making his state visit now to celebrate the centenary of the reformation of an association of the order in Britain. He is travelling in suitable style for the head of a sovereign state that runs leprosy and hospitals throughout the world, that has separate diplomatic relations with nearly 40 nations, and that has its own foreign policy and postage stamps.

Today the Grand Master of the Hospitaller Knights, originally established at Jerusalem in the eleventh century, is going to solemn mass at Westminster Cathedral. Tomorrow he attends a commemorative service at Canterbury Cathedral, and on Monday he will be received by the Queen.



The wax head of the 2,000-year-old mummy was reconstructed, complete with early Egyptian cosmetics, from the original cartonnage face mask and 30 pieces put together to make the skull.

## Manchester mummy may be boy

From John Charlton  
Manchester

Further investigation is to be carried out into the background of the 2,000-year-old "Manchester mummy". Members of the large team, composed of Egyptologists, dentists and even a Metropolitan Police expert in blood groups, are far satisfied with the efforts so far to trace the history of the supposed teenage girl.

Both the legs of the mummy, unwrapped here early this summer, had been amputated, and it reached the university by devious means at the end of the last century. At a news conference yesterday Dr Rosalie David, director of the project, and others associated with the investigation, admitted that they were not quite certain of being right in projecting the mummy as a girl.

Dr David and Dr Richard Neave, of the medical illustration department of Manchester

Royal Infirmary, agreed that that conclusion was a probability based on the size and shape of skull features. The pelvis, which should produce final proof, was badly shattered when the mummy was unwrapped.

A final report by pathologists, expected in two months' time, may lead to a dramatic revision of the present projection of a pretty teenage girl. On display, is, for that reason, made of wax, so that it can be modified in the light of further information.

The amputation of both legs, with some fresh bone growth below the original stumps, is also interesting to the investigators. Did the unfortunate girl (or boy) live as a cripple for years after perhaps being mutilated in some accident, or was a punishment imposed on her in Northern Ireland in this year of grace 1975?

Dr David will be going to Egypt next month in the hope of obtaining further information about the origins of the mummy. It reached Manchester by way of a private collection, according to markings found at

the bottom of the coffin saying "Petrie 26". She thinks that must relate to the work of Sir Flinders Petrie, a "father of Egyptology" who was active from the 1880s until his death in 1942.

Records in London which may throw some light on the date when the mummy was first brought to Britain and, even more important, on the site where it was originally discovered.

Dr David yesterday recorded another strange coincidence—the face as reconstructed bears a remarkable resemblance to a personal friend of hers, an Egyptian Christian.

The department of medical illustration's reconstruction of the head, which is now on public display, includes such features as partially opened lips, because the damaged bone structure of the nose indicated a possibility that the person suffered from sinusitis; plus eyebrows, and tinted lashes and lips, because of well established knowledge of early Egyptian cosmetics; and a wig bought in a local store which resembles hairstyles displayed in contemporary drawings of women in the Ptolemaic period.

## Offers open for £30m 'job creation' grants

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The Manpower Services Commission yesterday opened bidding for the £30m set aside by the Government for "job creation" in areas hit hardest by growing unemployment.

Local authorities, private businesses, charities, voluntary organizations and community groups are being invited to submit requests for labour-intensive schemes such as derelict land clearance and urban improvement that may qualify for grants of up to £50,000.

The commission hopes to provide 15,000 jobs of a temporary local nature and is already considering more than 30 schemes put forward by local authorities, including a proposal to turn 10 derelict acres in the centre of Birmingham into allotments.

The Government's job creation programme, which is being administered by a team of 12 based in London, assisted by teams being set up in six provincial centres. They will be guided by "action committees" of local authority representatives, independent persons, who will decide which schemes should be taken up.

Mr Dewi Rees, director of the programme, said yesterday the commission wanted clear-cut proposals, not half-baked ideas. The commission will reimburse labour costs and up to a tenth of the money needed to buy materials, but will not normally spend more than £50,000 on a single project.

Most of the money made available will be spent in the development areas where unemployment is highest. Scotland has been allocated the largest sum, £8m, and the Northern area ranks next with £6m.

Merseyside gets £4.5m. Wales £3.5m and the South-west £1m with £6m retained in a central reserve in recognition that unemployment affects all parts of the country, rather than only those traditionally associated with dole queues.

The £30m budget is designed to last until March, 1977, but whether it would "remain in being" is not clear. Mr Rees said: "Launching the job creation programme, Sir Denis Barrow, the commission's chairman, conceded that it was not in any sense an answer to unemployment."

His restrained enthusiasm was more than matched by a spokesman for the National Union of Public Employees, who described the programme as "a cover-up for the fact that the overall level of services is being reduced by Government cuts."

The commission argues that the schemes will help the unemployed and the community they live in. It is ready to meet labour costs if materials are supplied by the sponsor of the scheme, and examples of what that might be done are quoted as: "Say the school was a covered path to the nearest derelict land, need clearing inner city areas need improving."

The commission hopes to concentrate the work opportunities among the young and those over 50, and despite the temporary nature of the employment will also look for schemes that offer training or further education.

Mr Rees said: "Job creation has never been seen as a solution to the problems of unemployment. It must be seen as one of a number of measures to help the unemployed. But in any area, job creation projects can begin to reduce unemployment levels."

## College typhoid tests

Girls at Cheltenham Ladies' College have been tested for typhoid after confirmation of the illness in a pupil, aged 16, who recently visited Indonesia.

## Burglary stops auction

An auction at a house in South-hill, West Midlands, was called off yesterday after a burglary the previous night in which goods and furniture valued at £2,000 were stolen.

## EEC competition forces cheaper eggs

Bacon will cost more next week but eggs will be cheaper.

Fine Fare, the largest retailer of home-produced bacon, said yesterday that it would charge an extra 2p or 3p a pound for fore-end cuts while leaving gammon unchanged. The company's middle cuts will rise slightly.

The increases will be in response to rises of almost 1p a pound in wholesale prices of British, Irish and Danish sides yesterday. The wholesale changes reflect increased demand for all pig products since prices fell late in August.

Goldalloy, the largest egg marketing company in the country, said yesterday that large and standard grades would fall by 4p a dozen next week; other grades will drop by 2p. The company said it had to cut prices to meet off cheap offers of eggs from other EEC countries, including France.

The announcement of the cuts caught the National Farmers' Union by surprise, but it soon rallied enough to say that they would "pull market prices back below the break-even line". For shoppers that will mean that large

## Food prices

Hugh Clayton

white eggs will once again fall below 40p a dozen in some areas. Solid vegetables are beginning to show price rises, but they are not being reduced by conspicuous seasonal reductions on other varieties. Tomatoes have risen from a minimum of 14p a pound to between 18p and 26p and the more desirable types of lettuce have risen by a penny or two. Cucumbers have increased from 16p to 20p each to 18p to 24p.

Although some green vegetables have become cheaper, the reductions are sporadic and slight. Brussels sprouts show the sharpest drop to a minimum of 12p a pound, but they are not yet at their best. Cauliflowers are also of indifferent quality and remain extremely dear at as much as 30p each.

Cabbages have fallen slightly to 6p or 8p a pound but leeks remain high at 18p a pound. Courgettes and carrots fall after the best value among vegetables, with supplies of tasty carrots on sale at about 6p a pound or 12p a bunch. Young parsnips remain expensive at 14p a pound or 12p a bunch. There are some scattered supplies of good young turnips for less than 10p a pound. Celeriac is still a good value for salads at 8p to 10p a pound. The price range for raw beetroot is much wider, from as little as 6p a pound to as much as 14p.

Home-grown Cox's apples are in superb condition at 14p to 16p a pound for all but the smallest and scruffiest and 20p a pound for the finest. For those who like the crisp texture and tart flavour for a dessert apple Cox's now offer better value than the earlier and cheaper varieties, which may cost only half as much.

Lemons and grapefruit have become slightly cheaper in the past week, but the quality is unchanged. The best East African pineapples cost more than 10p each but more are now arriving from South Africa at 40p to 50p. A few shops still have some home-grown strawberries in very good condition at 80p a pound or more.

## Not a good year for would-be ambassadors

Increasing numbers of people want to join the Diplomatic Service and become ambassadors.

But this was a bad year to apply. Whitehall officials say, more than 930 university graduates applied to join the Foreign Office's administrative grade but only 16 were chosen. Usually between 25 and 30 applicants are picked, and some can expect to become ambassadors in about 25 years.

Last year and about 700 in the previous year. This year's reflects Britain's employment difficulties.

The Foreign Office is trying to improve the career structure for existing diplomats, and has been advised by the House of Commons' committees to avoid staff increases. There is also regular criticism that the service wants mainly to recruit people from the highest social classes as potential ambassadors.

## Japanese bidders revive interest in prints

By Geraldine Norman  
Sale Room Correspondent

Japanese bidding made for the success of Sotheby's sale of nineteenth-century and modern prints yesterday. Since their great buying boom two years ago they have shown little interest in this field; but yesterday's sale changed the record.

Their taste does not seem to have changed much; decorative works by well-established artists. Pauleta of Tokyo paid £810 (estimate £600-£800) for Chagall's 1937 colour lithograph, "The Flute Player", and £800 (estimate £600 to £1,200) for his "Bicycle Riders".

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## EEC competition forces cheaper eggs

Bacon will cost more next week but eggs will be cheaper.

Fine Fare, the largest retailer of home-produced bacon, said yesterday that it would charge an extra 2p or 3p a pound for fore-end cuts while leaving gammon unchanged. The company's middle cuts will rise slightly.

The increases will be in response to rises of almost 1p a pound in wholesale prices of British, Irish and Danish sides yesterday. The wholesale changes reflect increased demand for all pig products since prices fell late in August.

Goldalloy, the largest egg marketing company in the country, said yesterday that large and standard grades would fall by 4p a dozen next week; other grades will drop by 2p. The company said it had to cut prices to meet off cheap offers of eggs from other EEC countries, including France.

The announcement of the cuts caught the National Farmers' Union by surprise, but it soon rallied enough to say that they would "pull market prices back below the break-even line". For shoppers that will mean that large

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The Competition. Entrants were asked to study the Ford commercial vehicle advertisement in the October 9 issue of "The Times." (Copies still available; see below.) And then to write a 500-word short story based on the "townscape" illustration.

The competition is open until October 31. If you would like a reprint of the Ford townscape and a copy of the competition rules, please write to: Reg Sanderson, Ford Motor Company Ltd., 1, 351 Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex.



## Food prices

Hugh Clayton

white eggs will once again fall below 40p a dozen in some areas. Solid vegetables are beginning to show price rises, but they are not being reduced by conspicuous seasonal reductions on other varieties. Tomatoes have risen from a minimum of 14p a pound to between 18p and 26p and the more desirable types of lettuce have risen by a penny or two. Cucumbers have increased from 16p to 20p each to 18p to 24p.

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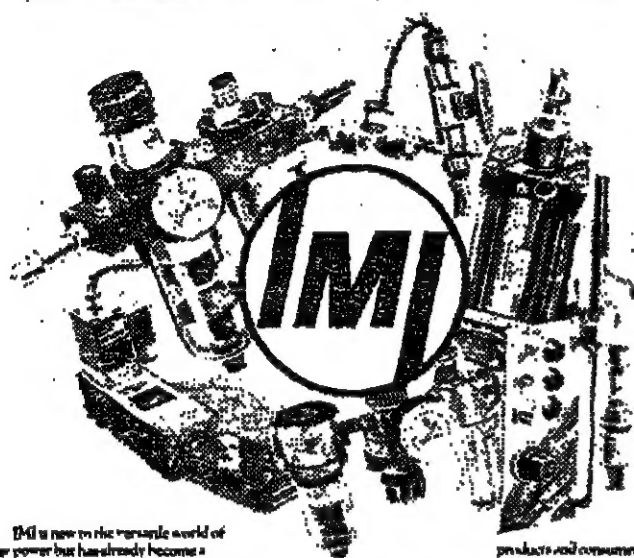
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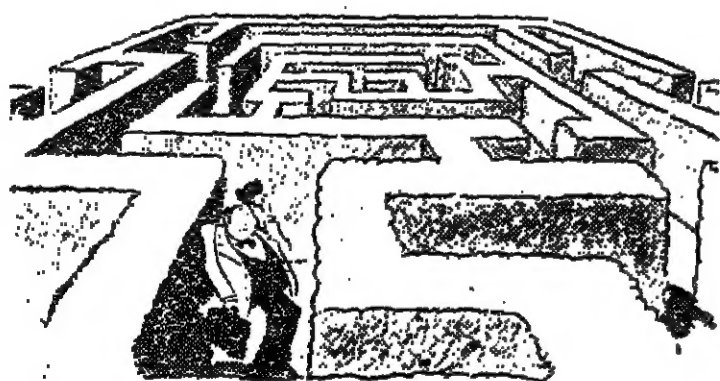
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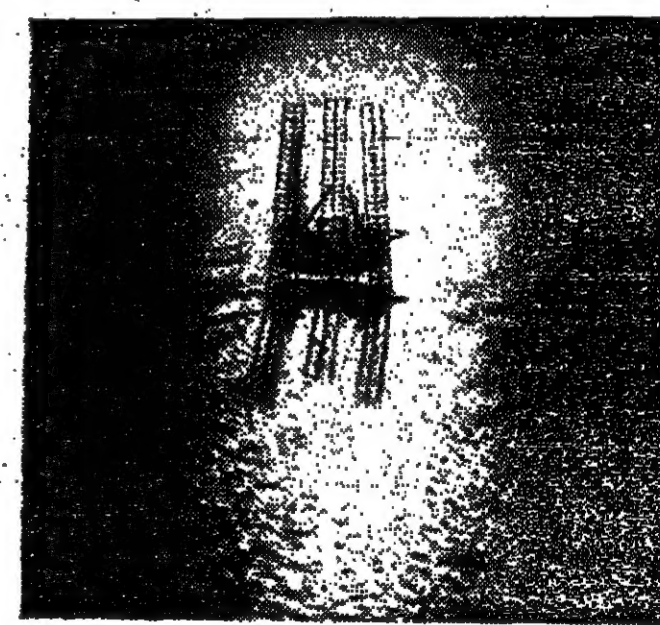
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## HOME NEWS

# The Government wants to separate private practice from the NHS, not abolish it, Mrs Castle says

By Our Medical Reporter

The policy of the Government was to separate private practice from the National Health Service, not abolish it, and it was not "Barbara Castle and a few union leaders picking a doctrinaire fight with the medical profession", Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

"It is a democratically elected government carrying out one of the commitments on which it was elected so that it can preserve the principle of medical priority as the basis for treatment in the NHS, and maintain a service in which all health professionals are willing to work contentedly. The Government is not going to stop doctors from practising privately", she added.

Income from pay beds that the NHS was losing was nothing like as much as had been quoted, she told the conference of the Society of Family Practitioner Committees in Folkestone. The income in England was about £20m from private beds and this was not profit. It merely reflected a contribution towards the cost to the NHS of treating private patients.

Appealing for a more co-operative enterprise within the NHS to help in getting through the next few difficult years, Mrs Castle said that some would ask how she could say that when she was spoiling for a fight with the doctors over private practice. But she had been deeply disappointed with the tone of the response by the British Medical Association and the royal colleges to the Government's consultative document on the separation of private practice from the NHS.

To a very large number of staff in the NHS—nurses, radio-

graphers, laboratory technicians, catering staff and porters—private practice in NHS hospitals was an anathema because it contravened the fundamental principle of treatment according to medical priority. Doctors must realize that they could not do their job without the support and co-operation of all the other staff.

Despite the cries to take the NHS out of politics, it simply could not be insulated from the overall problems facing the nation. She would be issuing guidance on the NHS capital programme soon, and it was intention as soon as possible to publish a detailed consultative document giving a broad indication of the resources likely to be available and an indication of priorities she considered should be met.

Describing the financial prospect for the NHS in the next few years as bleak, she said that to improve primary health care at family doctor and health visitor level we have to look for economies wherever we can. Regions where resources were short would have to be given priority, and new health centres would have to go to the most deserving areas.

"All I can do is to ask every one of you to remember that we are all part of a national health service and to show forbearance when the needs of some other area or locality are given precedence over yours."

Mrs Castle gave a hint that she might accede to doctors' demands for an inquiry into the NHS. I must say I am a little doubtful whether an inquiry

would help us to find new sources of money for the service", he said. "However, I have not closed my mind to an inquiry into areas of general concern about the NHS and its resources and priorities."

At the right time such inquiries could be helpful, "so I am not shutting the door on the idea, but I do want to think about it a little more."

There was some heckling and a cry of "poppycock" when the Minister said that after separation extra staff and facilities would be made available for treating NHS patients.

Unions' view: Legislation and the phasing out of pay beds to bring about the separation of private practice from the NHS should be completed within 12 months, the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse), says today in a memorandum urging the Government to end uncertainty by naming October 1, 1976, as the date for completion of the programme.

In detailed comments on the Government's proposals, Cohse, while welcoming them, lays down several conditions for giving its full support. Among them are conditions on which NHS facilities should be extended to private hospitals on a contract basis. Contracts should be short term, perhaps year to year, and all NHS staff should have a "conscience clause" right to refuse to be involved in private treatment.

They were disturbed that the proposed licensing system should apparently stop short at the provision of medical care and not extend to the provision of medical advice. That meant that in private outpatient consultant clinics earlier admission to an NHS bed could be arranged.

## WEST EUROPE

## Life turns sour for spoilt boys of Rome

From Our Correspondent Rome, Oct 9

Fifteen years after it was shocked by the film *La Dolce Vita*, Italy has been presented with another portrait of upper-class life, infinitely more disturbing.

This time it was not a film producer's yarn but a real-life story which has laid bare the habits of a type of wealthy young Roman. It was the sadistic torture, rape and murder of a working class girl of 19 by youths from some of the "best" families in Rome.

A couple of weeks ago, *Delitto a Vita* for the first time on their television screens. The very fact that the state broadcasting company could show immoral and scandalous, was itself a subject for comment on social changes.

But the general verdict was that Federico Fellini's portrait of a depraved and amoral high society, although an excellent film, was neither particularly shocking nor any longer true to reality.

The case of the unfortunate Rosaria Lopez, however, is expected to keep sociologists, politicians, the press, the judiciary and the feminists occupied for a long time. As one newspaper put it, the *dolce vita* has become the *malavita*. The sweet life has degenerated into crime.

According to police, a group of youths from the small, seamy district of Rome paid court to Rosaria and her friend Donatella Colasanti, aged 17, and having gained their confidence, took them for a swim.

They then drove them to the seaside villa belonging to one of the great families of the Circeo Promontory, home of the mythical enchantress Circe.

Drinks followed, records of Wagner and Beethoven, and then invitations to "dance". The girls, probably unsuspectingly, refused. There followed an indescribable 24 hours.

The girls were stripped, beaten, locked in a dark cubby-hole, given injections, held with their heads under water to make them give in and repeatedly raped. Finally, the girls were beaten to death with an iron bar. Donatella survived, by pretending to be dead.

The girls were bundled into the boot of a car, driven back to Rome and left parked in a street, apparently while the girls decided how to dispose of the bodies. Meanwhile Donatella's cries attracted the attention of neighbours who released her, and she was quickly arrested and recognized by Donatella. A fifth is in hiding.

All are members of a gilded youth clique which frequently figures in the daily press's crime reports. The sons of successful architects, doctors, engineers, merchants, or building speculators, they own fast cars and powerful motor cycles. Convinced Fascists, they despise the "weakness" of the neo-Fascist Movement Sociale with its parliamentary representation, preferring "purer" Nazi-type groups with the cult of racism and violence.

Theoretically students, they make no pretence of studying. One way to relieve the boredom is to resort to violence. Fascist youths, in fact, hold a reign of terror in their areas, beating up left-wing schoolchildren, parents and teachers, insulting and tormenting girls and women, robbing passers by and smashing up shops.

Even more disconcerting is the fact that these youths believe themselves to be, and in practice usually are, immune from punishment. Three of the youths, in fact, were tried earlier this year for the abduction and rape of two girls of 16.

Although the court ordered their arrest before the trial as "violent and potentially dangerous", it released them immediately afterwards on two-year suspended sentences, because it was sure they would "behave better in future".

The case has had the effect of stirring up real class hatred between Rome's rich and poor and the right and left. The announcement of Rosaria's death, posted by her family in their neighbourhood, as is the custom here, read that she had been barbarically assassinated by the youth of upper-class Rome.

In a sermon at a packed funeral, Father Pierluigi Ocelli, a former partisan, said she was the "innocent victim of bloody Fascist violence" and pointed out that "Rosaria's blood was shed 30 years after the liberation".

Many commentators, and feminists in particular, are greatly disturbed by the youths' attitude to girls as "objects", and particularly despicable ones.

One women's liberation movement was prompted, in spite of its own strong disapproval of censorship, to denounce the film *Life Size* to the magistrates for scenes of "unspeakable sexual violence to women", and to demand cuts of the offending shots.

The police suspect the sect of responsibility for the attacks, which occurred after an expulsion order from Switzerland against Mr Swami Karamazanda, a self-styled Indian guru and leader of the sect—UPS.

## Move by Britain to help dairy farmers may raise food prices

From David Cross Brussels, Oct 9

In a move designed to help its ailing dairy farmers, the British Government is expected to press for a new EEC arrangement which would put up food prices by a further 1 per cent.

According to well-informed sources in Brussels, Mr Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, is considering further devaluation of the so-called "green pound", the accounting device used for calculating British farm prices. An unofficial approach has already been made to the European Commission to discover whether this would be acceptable to the rest of the Community.

Mr Peart is expected to request a 5 per cent cut in the exchange rate of the green pound at a meeting of ministers of agriculture of the Nine in Luxembourg next week. This would automatically lead to a 5 per cent increase in the guaranteed minimum price paid to British farmers.

Farmers producing milk,

butter and cheese would benefit most because they receive the guaranteed minimum rate, whereas most other farmers can sell their produce at prices well above the minimum.

The disadvantage as far as consumers are concerned is that shop prices for dairy products would almost certainly rise. When the green pound was last devalued by 5 per cent at the beginning of August, the price of milk went up by about 1p a pint and butter and cheese by between 1p and 2p a lb.

The green pound also acts as a subsidy on food imports from overseas and a 5 per cent cut would mean an annual loss for the British Exchequer of up to £50m from EEC funds.

It is not clear whether a change in rate of the green pound will be the only step suggested by Mr Peart to help British dairy farmers.

It could be combined with other measures such as a straight increase in the consumer price for milk, a further

narrowing of the gap between the lower British milk producer price and the higher EEC price or "headage" payments on dairy cows paid by the British Exchequer.

The main disadvantages of the third possibility would be that it would almost certainly run up against strong opposition from the rest of the Community. National subsidies are unpopular because they tend to distort competition between member states.

At next week's Luxembourg meeting, the ministers are also to deliberate further on the troubles of the French and Italian wine growers. Before the meeting begins the European Commission, as the custodian of EEC rules, will have to decide whether to press on with its legal case against the French Government.

The French are accused by the Commission of infringing the Community's free trade rules by imposing a 12 per cent tax on wine imports from Italy.

## £25m aid to retrain jobless planned

From Michael Horneby Brussels, Oct 9

The European Commission proposed today the expenditure next year of about £25m from the EEC's Social Fund on the retraining of workers in industries and regions affected by above-average unemployment as a direct result of the recession.

If the proposal is approved at the next meeting of ministers of social affairs in December, member governments could submit applications for this assistance immediately afterwards and expect to begin receiving the money about mid-1976.

There is a question mark

hanging over the scheme because of the decision by EEC ministers last month to reduce the total allocation for payments out of the Social Fund in the Community's draft budget for 1976 from £208m to £166m.

This could be partly offset by the European Parliament which is empowered to vote modest increases in certain sectors of the Community budget, and these include social spending. It is unlikely, however, that the whole amount will be restored.

To qualify for the special aid, an industry would have to show that since the beginning of 1974 it had experienced an

increase in unemployment "distinctly higher than the average for the Community" and was also located in a region which had similarly suffered, where it was the main source of jobs.

The car, building and clothing industries are thought to be likely candidates. Among individual governments, the Irish are known to be concerned about their shoe industry and the Belgians are expected to ask for help for their glass makers. Newspapers would not qualify.

The commission assumed that unemployment would worsen in the early months of 1976 in most EEC countries.

## Paris says united EEC voice essential

From Our Own Correspondent Paris Oct 9

M. Jean Sauvagnargues, the French Foreign Minister, said today that he was "profoundly disappointed" by the demand of Mr Callaghan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, that Britain must have its own voice at the planned international conference on energy and raw materials. "That's not the European language," he declared, insisting that the number of 27 participating members at the main conference, fixed by international consensus, was "sacred".

The Foreign Secretary had talked to him on the subject in New York. Mr Sauvagnargues said, so that he was not entirely surprised by the British move. "But it is not true that Britain has always demanded a national seat at the conference", he added. Britain had until now made Community representation dependent on acceptance of a mandate by Britain with the other eight.

After recalling Mr Wilson's pledge on full-hearted cooperation after the British people's verdict in the referendum, M. Sauvagnargues claimed that a European position was of vital importance when the issue was beginning a process to work out a new world political and economic order. "I cannot believe one country will block this process."

But he did say that Britain's demand would not prevent next Monday's opening in Paris of a second attempt at a preparatory round.

The ultimate forum for deciding the representation question, M. Sauvagnargues added, would be the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

## Germans admit aid to Finnish union

Frankfurt, Oct 9.—The West German Metalworkers' Union said today that friends of its leaders had sent money to help Finnish socialists in an important union election next month.

The German union, IG Metall, earlier had denied allegations that it had donated money for use in elections by the Finnish metal union.

The issue of donations from abroad raised a controversy in Finland after police confiscated 15,000 kroner (£21,000) from the treasurer of the Finnish Social Democrat Party at Stockholm airport on Sunday.

## British call for more women politicians

From Our Social Services Correspondent, Oct 9

Political parties and governments throughout Europe were urged today to ensure that more women take an active role in politics.

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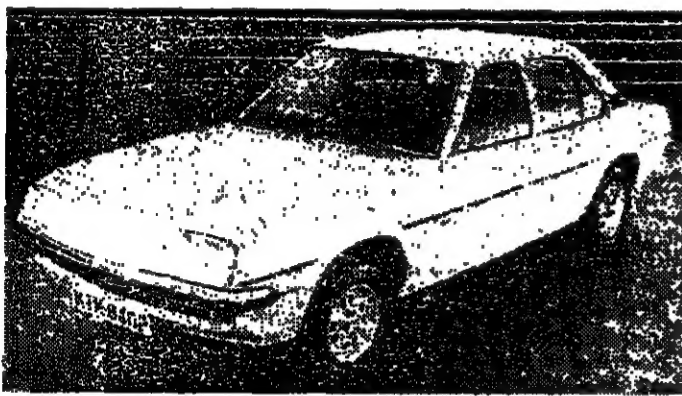
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Vauxhall's new Cavalier GL

## New Belgian-built Vauxhall

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

Vauxhall is to augment its car range with a model imported from the Continent. The Cavalier, which will be available in saloon and coupé versions with a choice of 1.6 and 1.9 litre engines, is being built at the General Motors plant at Antwerp, Belgium.

It will be the first time a car assembled abroad has been old under the Vauxhall badge and it marks a further stage in the closer integration of General Motors' European operations.

Mr W. R. Price, Vauxhall's

chairman, said the decision to go ahead with the Cavalier which is based on General Motors' Opel Manta series, was taken to avoid needless duplication of expenditure between Vauxhall and Opel and to take advantage of existing tools and designs.

He emphasized that it was an addition to the Vauxhall range and would not replace any British-built car. The launch has had to be handled delicately because of trade union fears that it might mean fewer Vauxhall jobs in Britain.

The car is to make its debut at the London Motor Show next week and will be in showrooms next month.

## Offer from minister a 'conciliatory gesture'

By John Roper

Medical Reporter

Sir Cyril Clarke, President of the Royal College of Physicians, said yesterday that although the present crisis in the NHS was one of its worst, he thought there was hope of resolving it now that Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, had offered the profession unrestricted talks. It was a "conciliatory gesture", which should mean that they had receded from the edge of a precipice.

But Sir Rodney Smith, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, who on Wednesday questioned the Government's intentions about the independence of the profession, said that Mrs Castle had done nothing to defuse the situation from the point of view of morale, which was the key to the situation. He had not yet studied her letter, but he was not sure that discussions would affect present morale.

Sir Cyril was speaking at a press conference at which he disclosed that in a study of emigration by doctors initiated by the college, 63 consultants and 40 senior registrars in all disciplines had left the country, probably for good, in the past two years to March this year. Of the 63 consultants, 26 were in a medical, as opposed to a surgical, specialty. Only nine of the 40 registrars were in medical specialties and the figures had to be seen in the context of 11,164 consultants and 2,209 senior registrars working in the NHS.

"The figures do not give grounds for complacency, but they do not represent a landslide", he said. There was no data on what had been happening in the past few months, but on hearsay evidence the slide was continuing, probably with a considerable increase in tempo.

The cause was apprehension about the future of the NHS. Training Council: A National Training Council has been established for the NHS and will hold its first meeting later this month. The Department of Health and Social Security announced yesterday.

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## Germans admit aid to Finnish union

Frankfurt, Oct 9.—The West German Metalworkers' Union said today that friends of its leaders had sent money to help Finnish socialists in an important union election next month.

The German union, IG Metall, earlier had denied allegations that it had donated money for use in elections by the Finnish metal union.

The issue of donations from abroad raised a controversy in Finland after police confiscated 15,000 kroner (£21,000) from the treasurer of the Finnish Social Democrat Party at Stockholm airport on Sunday.

## British call for more women politicians

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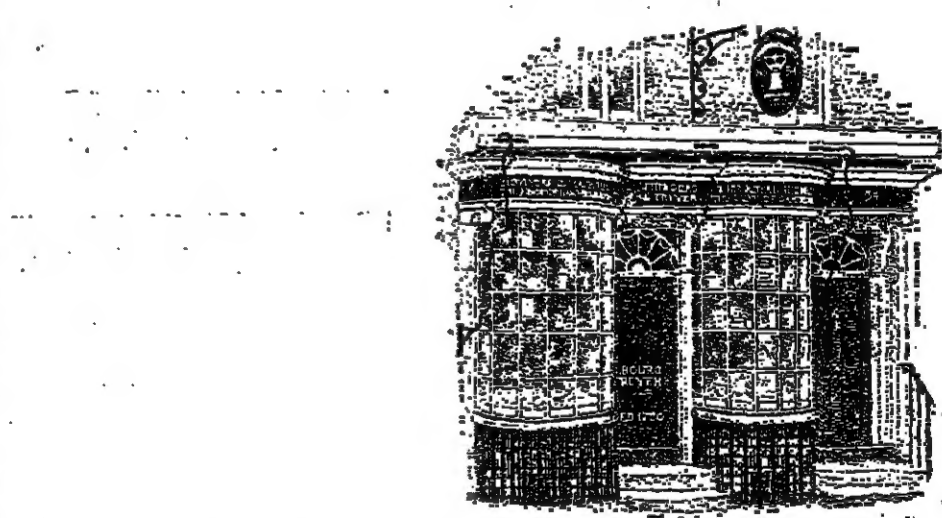
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## We are not yet ready to join the Machine Age.

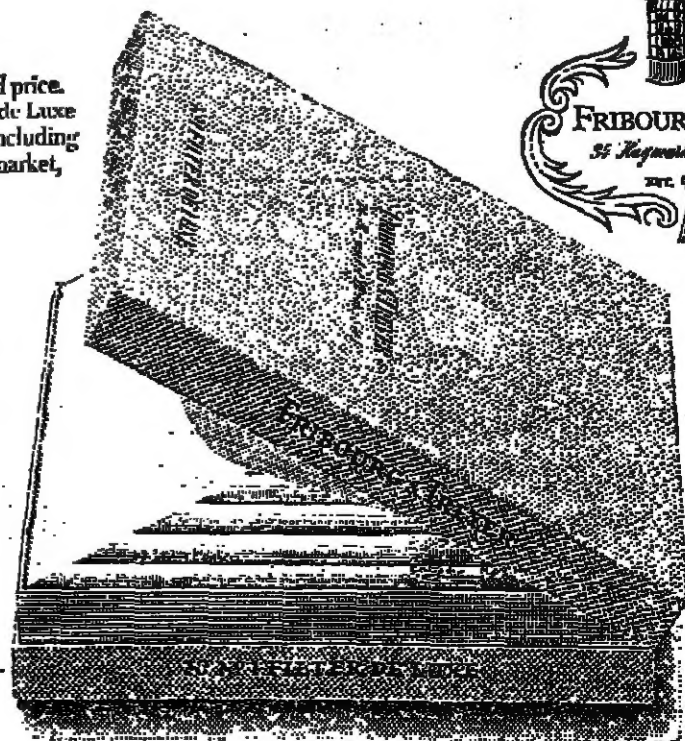
As a service to clients we are seeking to make our No.1 Filter de Luxe obtainable in places other than the Haymarket shop. To this end an American visitor suggested we might use a cigarette machine.

On investigation we found the machine unable

to change a tenner, accept a cheque, give street directions or make sanguine guesses at the Ascot weather and provide the other services our clients have come to expect.

We have, instead, arranged for additional and select London outlets to serve you your cigarettes personally.

55p for 20 Recommended price. If you wish No.1 Filter de Luxe are available at £5.80 for 200 including post and packing from 34 Haymarket, London SW1Y4HR.



## MIDDLE TAR

Manufacturer's estimate, October 1974, of group as defined in H.M. Government Tables

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## The Greatest ORIENTAL CARPET SALE For Years

To commemorate the re-opening of their famous shop in South Kensington Station Arcade, the Anglo Persian Carpet Company are holding their first ever sale. Renowned for 65 years as the foremost specialists in their field, the Anglo Persian Carpet Company provides a vast selection of outstanding carpets in every price range together with the experience and reputation essential to the purchase of an Oriental carpet. For the limited period of our commemorative sale, the vouchers in this advertisement offer a unique opportunity to acquire one of our exceptional Oriental carpets at a substantially reduced price.

ANGLO PERSIAN CARPET COMPANY LTD.

SOUTH KENSINGTON STATION ARCADE, LONDON SW7 2NA. TELEPHONE: 01-589 5457  
OPENING HOURS: TUESDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY 9.30-6.00. WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY 9.30-5.00.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Three more Spanish army officers arrested for sedition

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Oct 9

The authorities have arrested three more army officers in Barcelona in a sedition case, it is reported in Madrid today. The arrests, announced by the headquarters of the fourth military region in Barcelona, took place on Wednesday night, almost the same time that a ninth policeman died as a result of political violence.

Both incidents were symptomatic of the mounting political tension as General Franco approaches his 83rd birthday. A policeman, who had been in the city since he was shot in Madrid on October 1, was killed today, when the funeral cortege of other policemen, killed during other gun battles with extremists, were also held.

Another sign of the times was government order, made public today, suspending the publication of Spain's second most important news weekly, *El Mundo*, for four months. The Ministry of Information and Tourism imposed the punishment without trial because the editors of the editorially conservative magazine dared to print a picture of the Basque nationalist flag on the cover of its June issue. That issue was seized by police.

Yet another "administrative" by the Ministry of Information and Tourism, which would result in an additional six-month ban is still pending against the magazine. The Ministry's latest complaint is about an article which reported the brief summary court martial of General Juan Paredes Manot, who was convicted of terrorism and executed by firing squad in Barcelona on September 27.

An official note regarding the Barcelona arrests of an artillery major, an infantry captain and a cavalry captain said that their case is related to one in which nine army and six police officers arrested last summer are awaiting trial in Madrid. In that case, the prisoners are accused of conspiring to commit sedition.

Information sources identified the officers seized in Barcelona as Major Enrique Lopez Amor, Captain Juan Diego Garcia and Captain Arturo Gurrea Granados. The sources said that they were acquaintances of two other army officers, both of whom had been teaching at the autonomous university in Barcelona, who were jailed earlier

this year after being accused of a breach of discipline. There was never any official explanation of the breach but it was known that the officers annoyed their superiors by defending a fellow officer who had refused to reveal the names of civilians involved in a labour dispute.

It is not known for certain if the military men most recently arrested had any relation to elements carrying out recent violent attacks on the regime. But unconfirmed reports said that at least one army captain, whose arrest has never been officially acknowledged, is being held in Madrid in connection with the capture of a suspected leader of the outlawed Basque separatist organization ETA last month.

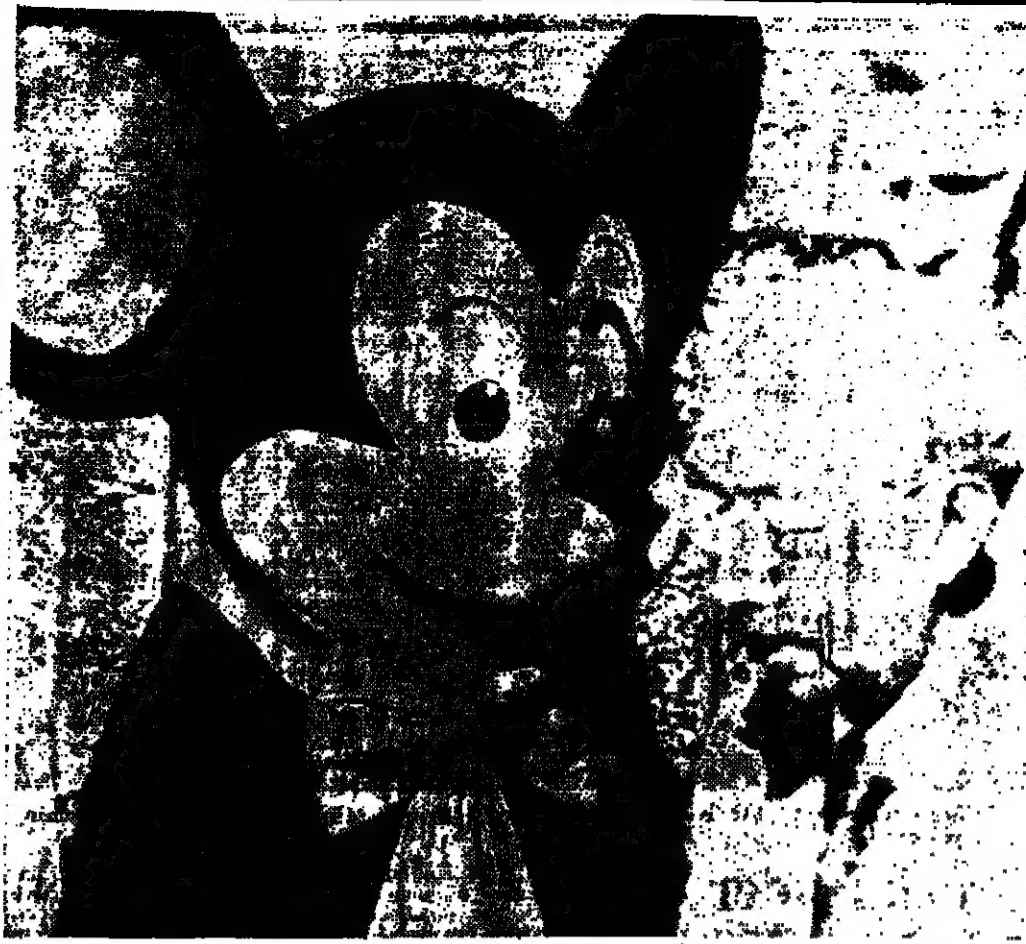
The continuing round-up of military officers suggests official concern about the possibility of the infiltration of the Spanish officer corps by anti-regime elements. Madrid newspapers today attributed the shooting of the Spanish military attaché in Paris, Captain Bartolomé Garcia-Piña Vallé, to an organization identified as the Juan Paredes Manot group. But the ETA, through a clandestine spokesman, denied involvement in the shooting.

An ETA spokesman also said, however, that in view of recent widespread arrests, the ETA would no longer be so "selective" in its targets. Up to now the Maoist FRAP (Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Patriotic Front) has generally chosen as its victims people alleged to be involved in torture and political intelligence.

In the southern province of Córdoba, Spanish troops carried out military manoeuvres against subversion and irregular activities, according to an official statement. The return of several ambassadors recalled by their countries for consultations was reported in Madrid. Among them was Mr Charles Wiggins, the British Ambassador, who arrived yesterday.

Three of the five priests arrested in Madrid for reading out a sermon to which authorities objected last Sunday were today taken to the Carabanchel prison to serve jail terms imposed without trial under the terms of the so-called Public Order Law. The priests were jailed because they failed to pay fines imposed without trial ranging from about £800 to £2,000. The other two priests were released.

## OVERSEAS



Emperor Hirohito of Japan met Mickey Mouse during a visit to Disneyland. But he did not meet his favourite actor, Peter Falk of the Colombo series, who was too busy filming.

## Détente blamed for keeping terrorism alive

Salisbury, Oct 9.—If Rhodesia had not become engaged in the détente exercise, terrorism would have been eliminated and the tribal lands in the north-eastern area returned to their "former tranquil state", Mr William Irvine, the Minister of Local Government and Housing, said in Stellenbosch today.

"No one can claim that we in Rhodesia have received much benefit from the détente exercise, particularly in the security field. However, since we resumed offensive action against terrorism in recent weeks we have again achieved great success."

There was no doubt, he went on, that Rhodesia had gained many friends in the Western world as a result of the "exemplary" conduct of Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, at the Victoria Falls constitutional conference and the "pitiful performance" of the African National Council—Agence France-Presse.

## Judgment in Mrs Gandhi's election case reserved

From Our Correspondent  
Delhi, Oct 9

The Supreme Court of India has reserved judgment in the election case concerning Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

The case, which began on August 25, ended in Delhi today. Mr A. N. Ray, the Chief Justice, said that the arguments had been concluded and the opinion of the court would be announced later.

The court is to give its verdict on two points, one constitutional and the other legal. The constitutional issue is whether the thirty-ninth Constitutional Amendment Act prohibits law courts from hearing election petitions against the Prime Minister, as well as the President, the Vice-President and the Speaker.

The legal point is whether the recent amendments to the People's Representation Act concerning elections are valid. The amendments, among other

things, say that the assistance of government servants in an election are not tantamount to a corrupt practice. One "corrupt practice" according to the Allahabad High Court was that Mrs Gandhi, during her election campaign, had been helped by her personal assistant before his resignation from government service was accepted.

Both issues have a bearing on the appeal filed by Mrs Gandhi against the Allahabad High Court judgment which had found her guilty of "corrupt practices" in her election campaign and debarred her from holding an elected post for six years. The Supreme Court gave a stay order.

The case before the Supreme Court was presented by Mr A. K. Sen, the former Law Minister, on behalf of Mrs Gandhi, and by Mr Shanti Bhushan, on behalf of Mr Raj Narain, a Socialist leader, who received more than 100,000 votes in the 1971 general election.

## Benn plea for stronger union voice

Tokyo, Oct 9.—Mr Wedgwood Benn, Britain's Energy Minister, said today the worldwide trade union movement must demand a greater voice in government policy-making to counteract the undue influence "of big business."

Bilateral relationships between government and big business should be progressively replaced by tripartite arrangements, giving the unions "a voice at least as strong as business" in the formulation of national policies, he suggested.

He made his remarks on the last day of a three-day visit to Japan while addressing the central committee meeting here of the International Metalworkers' Federation.

Mr Benn urged trade unions to strengthen international links to offset "any abuse of power that may occur by multinational corporations."

A new world economic order could not be concerned solely with the achievement of a new balance between south and north, and between the developed and developing worlds; it must also bring about a new balance between capital and labour within the industrialized countries themselves, Mr Benn said.

He also told the meeting that trade unions could not rely on the news media to get their case across, and must consider how to solve this communication problem. At present the mass media in Britain were generally hostile "to the unions."

Mr Benn said that the spirit of the Helsinki summit, which called for greater East-West contacts, must find its proper expression in greater trade union contacts.

The present worldwide economic slump was not just another minor disturbance in an otherwise stable and fair economic and social system, he stated. Rather, this was a time for "fundamental readjustment towards a new consensus round a new balance of power," Mr Benn said.—Reuters.

## Four die in gun battle with Dominican police

Santo Domingo, Oct 9.—Four men disguised as farmers and identified by authorities as left-wing guerrillas were killed in an exchange of fire with police on a rural highway a few miles outside the Dominican Republic's capital, police said today.

One of the guerrillas was identified as Professor Manfredo Casado Villar, formerly of the University of Santo Domingo. Dominican authorities said he returned from exile last June with two compatriots to organize guerrilla actions against the Government.

The other three men killed by a police motor patrol had not been identified. There were no police casualties, the announcement said.—UPI.

## Rebels progress on reunion with Britain

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Oct 9

The campaign to reunite the rebellious American colonies with Britain is making great strides, according to a small group of conspirators in Richmond, Virginia. The group have now brought out the first issue of a pamphlet which will argue the cause of reunion, and in it they claim: "We have already convinced hundreds of Colonials that Loyalty and Reunion is the only possible course for this country."

They say they are expecting official recognition from the Queen at any moment and that they have already had private parleys with British plenipotentiaries.

The Committee for Reunion with England (CRE) first announced itself to the world last July, when it published its declaration of reunion. Since then it has continued its efforts, counting, no doubt, on the strong support of Anglophiles to be found in Virginia and the liking of many former colonialists for this sort of spoof.

The *Tory Torch*, as the pamphlet is called, is now to be published bimonthly at an annual subscription of "three rebel dollars". In its first issue Yorktown to Watergate: the inevitable road", and achieves a world scoop with the publication of the diaries of Felix Liege, a secret Tory who was Thomas Jefferson's quill-chipper while he wrote the Declaration of Independence.

The campaign for Reunion has been timed to coincide with the United States bicentennial celebrations, and the *Tory Torch* is suitably scathing about them. The object, it says, is to "prick the flatulent Bicentennial Balloons that crowd this country's firmament and continually mock our Loyal Patriots!"

The *Tory Torch* outlines the tactics to be followed: to demand equal time on radio and television and to collect signatures for petitions begging forgiveness from the Queen. In future issues the conspirators promise to announce plans for a physical link between the American colonies and Britain in the form of a transatlantic bridge.

## Shanghai troops move cargoes

Peking, Oct 9.—Troops have been called in to help to move cargoes in Shanghai, according to an informed source today. Shanghai radio stated last month that a locally-based battalion had helped to shift 600,000 tons of cargo at rail depots, wharves, a steel plant and a glass factory.

## Henry Moore statue stolen

Johannesburg, Oct 9.—A statue by Henry Moore valued at £8,600, was stolen from a Johannesburg art gallery yesterday when an attendant left his post to answer a question. The bronze statue, "Woman on a Bench", 10in high and 6in wide, was bought by Johannesburg City Council in 1953.

## Mr Vorster must walk tightrope on languages

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Oct 9

Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, will address 25,000 people on a mountainside north of Cape Town tomorrow at the inauguration ceremony of a monument to the Afrikaans language, the centenary of which is being celebrated this year.

The monument, a highly surrealistic construction perched on top of Paarl mountain, has already been the subject of heated dispute and the ceremony could prove equally controversial.

Three groups of Afrikaans speakers have indicated that they intend to boycott the occasion. They include most modern Afrikaans writers who are objecting to the recent censorship of Afrikaans books and plays; the Coloured Labour Party for political reasons and because the audience apart from invited dignitaries, will be segregated; and the right-wing Herengade National Party because Coloured people, most of whom speak Afrikaans as their home language, are being allowed to attend.

The dispute symbolizes the clash between those who feel that Afrikaans must retain their exclusiveness and those who feel that such rigidity will not only turn Afrikaans into a dead language but will brand the Afrikaner permanently as an oppressor.

## FLAMMARION 75

Astronomie populaire  
Camille Flammarion - fac simile of 1880 edition

## GENERAL LITERATURE

Les Yeux en sole (short stories)  
Françoise Segal

Les Rois mendiants  
Jean Lartéguy

Envoies  
Guy des Cars

Le Moscovite  
Henri Troyat

Le Moscovite  
Les Désordres secrets

Les Feux du matin  
Cécil Saint-Laurent

Le Bourgeois  
Cécil Saint-Laurent

Killer  
Yves Nuyette

Le Fils du ciel  
Victor Segalen

Grande neige, grand soleil  
Claude Delmas

Appelés-moi Thérese  
Robert Escarpit

La Fièvre verte  
Jacques Isnart

Les Etangs de Hollande  
Dominique de St-Alban

Alice au crépuscule  
Jean-Louis Bachelon

Gabriel et les primévères  
Alain Demouzon

Les Autes et moi  
(the sequel to "mon Village et moi")

Pierre Gaxotte

Complete works of Tristan Tzara  
Lettre à un jeune danseur

Maurice Béjart

Joséphine  
J. Barker's biography

Manouche se met à table  
Alphonse Boudard

Arménie 1915  
un génocide exemplaire

Jean-Marie Carzou

les Prisonniers  
(German POWs camps in the United States)

Daniel Costelle

POLITICS

la Paille et le grain  
François Mitterrand

la Femme en marge  
Yvette Roudy

Comment vaincre la pauvreté  
dans les pays riches

Lionel Stoleru

Socialistes et communistes  
Jean-Pierre Chevenement

Histoire du travail  
et des travailleurs

(revised edition)  
Georges Lefranc

HISTORY

— Collections under the direction of Jacques Le Goff, President of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociale:

Bretons de Plozevet  
André Burguière

(A sociological and ethnological analysis of a small village in Brittany during the 60's. Ten years' field work.)

les Confréries religieuses dans la France contemporaine  
Marthe Segalen

— "Science" collection under the direction of Joseph Goy:

les Hommes et la mort en Anjou au XVII<sup>e</sup> et au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle  
François Lebrun

## ESSAIS

Collections under the direction of Jacques Derrida:

— la philosophie en effet

— Minéris (collective work by young French philosophers)

— Logos et décalage - le discours de la syncope

(a new aesthetic reading of Kant)

Essai sur les hyérologies  
Waburton

(Text from the beginning of the 18th century - long preface by Derrida)

— Diogenes  
Paysages de ruines avec personnages

Danielle Salenave  
(fictionalized essay set in turn-of-the-century Vienna)

ART BOOKS AND BOOKS ABOUT ART

Histoire de l'art russe des origines à Pierre-Le-Grand  
Michel Alpatov

L'Art juif  
(AMG) de Mme Sed Rajna

les Ordres religieux collective work

Two volumes in quarto

la Relève de l'imaginaire (already published: "La Relève du réel")

René Huyghe

Duchamp du signe  
The writings of Marcel Duchamp

CINEMA

Album Bardot/Sagan

les Films de ma vie  
François Truffaut

le Cinéma de la cruauté  
André Bazin

(Preface by F. Truffaut)

COLLECTION ODYSSEE (illustrated books)

J.Y. Cousteau, Ch. Zuber P.E. Victor, H. Tazieff

dans les Abîmes de la terre  
Michel Siffre

les Seigneurs de la ligne canadienne  
Roger Frison-Roche

la Planète Mars  
Albert Ducrocq

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Marie-Stéphanie et les quatre saisons  
Jac Remise

Plume Parade  
Yves Navarre

COOKING

la Cuisine du marché  
Bocuse

les Recettes de Marie-Louise Cordillot

la Cuisine bourgeoise  
Louis Guilloit

GUIDES AND DICTIONARIES

Guide de littérature pour la jeunesse  
Marc Soriano

Lexique bilingue de l'audio-visuel  
French-English technical terms: cinema, television, telecommunication, video, photography, journalism, advertising, printing

EF

Frankfurt Book Fair - Halle 5 - Stand 80-81

FLAMMARION



and see how the Dodge K38 beats practically everything by a mile!

**ECONOMY.** Ask any K38 operator. Robin, owner-driver says "On the way to Auctherarder (100 miles) I go at 55 all the way, hills and I get 9.6 miles per gallon. I've got the sheets to prove it!"  
Dodge and Co. Ltd., Dodge construction and element distributors, who sell three Dodge K38's, use full 32 tons GCW, 14 to 9 MPG. They do not run on single tank of fuel.

**POWER.** The power-plant of around 8.5 BHP at 32 tons GCW is the most. We're not concerned with saving time, the current vehicle up to 1½ hours

on journeys, says Mr. Farcombe of Chapmans Transport Ltd. "On the A74 just before Crawford there's a slow drag for 4½ miles up to 1,300 feet above sea level. I can take 20 tons up there in overdrive," says Robin Earith.

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PHS







## Are women losing ground even in their traditional professions?

Women outnumber men in two professions: medicine and education. In these, they have achieved equal pay, but not equal access to training and therefore to promotion. In medicine, nine out of ten nurses are women, but only one qualified doctor is a woman. Many women doctors do not practise medicine, for even though the National Health Service is short of doctors, the profession is unwilling to provide the opportunities of part-time work that would enable women to combine family commitments with a return to work. Thus, despite the fact that a quarter of qualified doctors are women, the number actually practising is much lower. In 1970, 14 per cent of hospital staff doctors were women, and only 12.2 per cent of general practitioners. There are also complaints that fewer women than before are being appointed to senior medical posts.

If we turn to dentistry, the proportions are lower still, being respectively 8.5 and 7.3 per cent. In teaching, only 15 per cent of staff in higher education are women, although women outnumber men in the schools. Again, there are complaints that fewer and fewer women are being appointed to headships and to run departments in schools.

Women do seem to be losing ground in "their" professions even where in the recent past they may even have enjoyed slightly more favourable treatment than men. In nursing, for example, men have been prevented by law from being midwives, which in practice also prevents men from gaining a health visitor's certificate, since a prerequisite for this qualification is training in midwifery and obstetric nursing. By custom, rather than by law, women have been preferred to men in the staffing and direction of primary and girls' schools. The lower status and pay in primary education made this area less attractive to men, and in the case of girls' schools many parents prefer female staff. Until long after the last war women teachers were paid less than men, so local authorities were only too happy to indulge this parental whim. In 1971, although more women than men were in teaching, only one in five head teachers in primary and secondary schools was a woman. In 1972, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers said that since equal pay for teachers had been introduced eight years earlier, the number of women headmistresses had fallen by 2,000.

Pre-selection by the girls themselves appears to be as important a factor in limiting their access to jobs in medicine as the attitudes of the medical schools themselves. "In 1966," said the dean of a London hospital, "we studied all of the incoming medical students in the country, and all of the (medical) schools showed that their girl entrants had been faced with much more opposition, particularly at school but to some extent at home," before they could get into medicine.

Others would argue that this discouragement was no more than the justifiable reaction to the discriminatory policies of

medical schools. There were, for example, no women at all in the London medical schools until 1948, when their paymasters, the University Grants Committee, insisted upon a quota of 15 per cent of too admissions. By 1972 a third of the students in medical schools were girls, about the same proportion as the number of women to men applicants. At four hospitals, however, a self-imposed quota remained. This varied from 25 per cent of intake at the Charing Cross Hospital, London, to about a third at Dundee University.

Yet in medicine marriage is still allowed to stifle as many women's careers as the discrimination of the deans of medical schools. Less than a third of the country's women doctors work full-time, half work part-time, and a fifth not at all. The medical profession, like many others, tends to view marriage on the part of its women members as evidence of a faulty sense of vocation. But in fact there is not enough part-time work available in the right places to enable many women doctors with young children to resume practice. Where there are vacancies, the pay is often too low to make working worthwhile. It may hardly cover the cost of home help, where this is available.

The last war looms large in any discussion of the problems of women doctors. On the one hand, that war proved beyond a doubt the folly of regarding women as merely supportive workers. On the other hand, as the idea of following a profession became more commonplace, so it became harder to achieve. Home help became scarce, as the pre-war legions of domestic servants left for the factories, never to return.

After the war, also, the number of medical school places that the country would need was underestimated and the resultant pressure on these places from applicants, and shortage of doctors in the NHS, have bolstered male privileges. Doctors, surprisingly considering their professional interest in the reproductive function, find its operation among women to be sufficient reason for exclusion from medical schools. "If we train 100 men," said one medical administrator, "then in five or ten years' time we shall have 100 doctors in full-time practice; if we train 100 women, then we shall have only 30 per cent working in five or ten years, and then most probably in part-time work."

Why this should be so, how far it is a fact of nature and how far a product of the profession's insensitivity, or even whether some of the women lost are better doctors than the men who remain, are questions which still await satisfactory diagnosis.

In teaching, the decreasing competitiveness of women with men is to a greater degree due to over-production of graduates since the last war. John Holloway, of the University of Manchester's Careers and Appointments Service, has pointed out that as high a proportion of the population is now taking degrees as twenty-five years ago was taking school certificates.

As we have seen, over twice as many girls as boys go to colleges of education

rather than to universities, even though girls' "A" level results are at least as good as boys'. This leaves girls at an initial disadvantage for their reliance upon teaching is increased by industry's reluctance to regard qualifications from the colleges of education as evidence of anything other than a preparation for teaching. The proportion of men to women in school-teaching is 42:58, but in the lowest grade posts it is 24:76, and in the highest 60:40. In 1972 there were only forty-four women professors out of a national total of 3,200, half of whom were in one university, London.

In the schools, teachers are beginning to talk of the necessity of drawing distinctions between "career" teachers and the rest, meaning, in practice, between men and women. The concept is dangerously close to the prejudice, already discussed, that women have one set of attitudes and men another, as result of which women need not be regarded as individuals. In part, the frustration of many men teachers is understandable, for the preponderance of women in the profession for many years held back brisk activity and therefore advanced in salary and status. However, a consciousness of inferior treatment among women eventually becomes self-fulfilling, as we have seen in medicine. Women begin not to apply for promotion, or worse still, drift into other work or no work at all after their children have grown up.

In 1972 the Royal Institute of British Architects published a survey which showed the proportion of women members of professional institutes. If we look at twenty of these associations, we find that women's membership ranges from all in the Institute of Building (20,964 men) to 17.8 per cent, or 8,863 women in the British Medical Association (49,714 men). In only one other body, the British Dental Association, did their membership exceed 10 per cent. The architects themselves, for instance, could muster only 4.2 per cent, and the Institute of Bankers, where the female labour force outnumbered the male, produced a total of 1.2 per cent. The figure was less than 2 per cent for the chartered accountants, town planners and even the chartered secretaries and administrators. Yet the legal right to enter most professions was granted women over half a century before, by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919, which laid down that neither sex nor marriage should disqualify a woman from carrying on any civil profession. The Act, in theory, at least ended an exclusion that had lasted ever since the professions began to organize themselves during the last century, and was based upon long terms of professional education, to university standard.

The above is an extract from *Women and Work*, by Ross Davies, published last Monday by Hutchinson at £3.25. It is also available in paperback from Arrow Books at 75p.

## The Times European shopping basket

	Butter	Potatoes	Margarine	Cheese	Chicken	Fresh cod	Bread	Milk
October 1, 1975								
London	1.31+2	87+12	0.73-13	0.32	0.47+3	0.30	0.65+1	0.07
Athens	0.85+2	0.72+2	0.38	0.38	0.42+1	0.31	0.46+1	0.11
Rome	1.68	1.16	0.06+1	0.73+4	0.39	0.29	0.13-2	0.08
Brussels	1.63+11	0.83+2	0.04-1	0.66+2	0.28+3	0.65-14	0.63-3	0.11+1
Copenhagen	1.63-9	1.42-8	0.09	0.69-3	0.25-6	0.78-2	0.60-1	0.11
Dublin	0.79+4	0.91+3	0.06+1	0.35-2	0.27-4	0.52	1.00+19	0.23+1
Geneva	2.50+5	1.42-1	0.05-1	0.40+2	0.47+1	1.07+2	0.71+1	0.10-6
Hague	1.20	0.75+1	0.07	0.17	0.73+1	0.46	0.80+15	0.17+1
Luxembourg	1.25-3	0.75+1	0.04+1	0.60	0.28-2	0.85-6	0.48-7	0.18+1
Oslo	2.30-4	1.05-6	0.04-5	0.42+1	0.30+2	0.52-20	1.05+9	0.15+3
Paris	1.45+29	1.00+17	0.04-11	0.80+17	0.30+2	0.52-20	0.38-31	0.96+151
Rome	1.44-2	1.22+24	0.061	0.90-73	0.52-31	0.80+1	0.53-25	0.15+1
Stockholm	1.54+30	1.05	0.13+1	0.67+1	0.84+6	0.44+1	0.69-5	0.10
Vienna	1.28+1	0.90+1	0.08	0.71	0.23+5	0.69+1		

The plus and minus figures are price changes in the past month. Prices in £ per pound, except milk which is per pint. Figures supplied by Reuters.

Why does butter from other EEC countries cost so much more at home than it does here? Why, indeed, does butter from France, Germany and Holland almost always cost less here than butter produced in this country?

The answer, as always where the Common Agricultural Policy is concerned, is hideously complicated. While traders in some foods constantly wrestle against market fluctuations in price, those in dairy produce are so tightly controlled that their markets appear to be full of paradoxes.

The complications begin with the fact that, referendum notwithstanding, this country is not in terms of farming cash a full member of the EEC.

We are still in the transitional period of entry so that our farm prices are not yet as high as those elsewhere in the Community. To put it another way, prices elsewhere are prevented from being as low as they are here. The Community, having erected that temporary barrier to

free trade between member states, must demolish it to ensure unfettered trade in particular commodities.

Butter exporters to this country receive a payment to eliminate the gap between their prices and ours which is attributable to our incomplete membership.

There is another way in which our prices are held down which is quite different. Our farm prices are expressed in terms of a currency rate fixed at intervals by the Community as a whole, the notorious "green pound". Real money, however, does not oblige by moving in harmony with EEC farm currencies and gaps occur between the two. Butter exporters have to be compensated for that as well, with what the Community calls monetary compensatory amounts.

Next there is a consumer subsidy paid by the British Government quite independently of the EEC. That makes all butter

sold here 11p a pound cheaper than it would otherwise be. Last, and least, there are market forces.

In less than three years British prices for farm produce will have risen to general EEC levels. This year barely any butter will be produced in Britain because there is a shortage of milk here compared with a surplus in the rest of the EEC.

That shortage offers a golden opportunity for other EEC countries to move in on the British market. They do that in the time-honoured way of cutting prices in order to increase demand for their products.

British producers, who have practically no butter to sell, cannot benefit by increasing demand for it. They do not, therefore, cut prices. Thus the forces of the market play their diminished role at the end of a line of mechanisms that ensure that the German, French or Dutch farmer receives the same price for his produce whether he sells at home or here. The same structure applies to cheese.

## Getting down to basics for weight watchers

Few of us have any real knowledge of nutrition, yet we all accept that the food we eat must affect our health and vitality. Nutrition can be confusing, and it takes someone who really knows the subject to explain it in simple terms. Dilys Wells, a consultant nutritionist who graduated from Queen Elizabeth College, London, is the author of *The Good, the Bad and the Fattening*, published by Times Books at £3.25. This is a book that deserves a place on every cook's bookshelf.

The above is the book to present the basic facts about food, their nutritive value and significance in our diet. For instance, it explains conditions that require special diets and gives easy-to-follow instructions for those who have to cater for anyone on a special diet.

Individual food entries are given as analysis of nutrient content along with relevant explanations, which means that you can see and understand quite easily which foods are fattening and to be avoided if you are anxious to slim; which food should be excluded from the menu if your husband is on a low cholesterol diet; those foods that are nutritious and provide a well-balanced diet for a growing family.

First glance the book may look technical, but do not let that put you off. The pages are packed with useful and up-to-date information on how to buy and store food, with practical hints on preparation and use. Such information is of interest to every cook, and in particular to those who want to give their families the best value at the most economical price.

The *Good, the Bad and the Fattening* is not a cookery book. It is a dictionary of food—a book to be used as a companion to all cookery books and a very good one.

Available from bookshelves or direct from Publications Department, Times Newspapers Limited, PO Box No 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London W1X 8EZ. Add 30p for postage and packing.

Katie Stewart

Law Report October 9 1975

## Accuser's honesty not implied by dishonesty accusation

*Regina v Lee*  
Before Lord Justice Orr, Mr Justice MacKenna and Mr Justice Forbes

An accusation of dishonesty does not imply that the accuser himself is honest, the Court of Appeal stated when allowing an appeal against conviction for theft.

Paul Robert Lee, aged 21, appeared by certificate from his conviction last June at Manchester Crown Court (recorded Mr W. R. Wickham) of the theft of £150 and a gold ring from a house in Manchester belonging to Mr Robert Ludlun. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

The recorder's certificate that the case was fit for appeal stated that the ground was that he had allowed the prosecution to cross-examine the appellant on his previous convictions, the cross-examination had been allowed because counsel for the appellant had cross-examined Mr Ludlun as to the previous convictions of two other men, not witnesses in the case, who it was suggested by the defence had had an opportunity to commit the offence charged against the appellant. In the recorder's view the cross-examination amounted to cross-examination with a view to establishing

the appellant's good character and, therefore, an application by the prosecution to cross-examine the appellant on his own previous convictions was granted under section 1(1)(ii) of the Criminal Evidence Act, 1968.

Proviso (1) reads: "A person charged with an offence shall not be asked... any question tending to show that he is... of bad character... unless... (3) he has... by his advocate asked questions of the witnesses for the defence with a view to establishing his own good character."

Mr Martin Steiger for the appellant Mr James Gregory for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ORR said that the appellant was living with Mr Robert Ludlun and his wife, who was "the appellant's sister."

LORD JUSTICE ORR said that the appellant had been saving money required for moving their home and had been £200 under a mortgage. He discovered that £150 of the money and a gold ring were missing. The appellant was also missing, and a third person saw him in the house. A large sum of money in notes.

There had been an earlier short examination of the appellant's previous convictions. The jury were asked to consider the question of cross-examination with the recorder. Counsel stated

that the appellant's case was that a large number of people had access to the house, including Mr Paul Ludlun, the complainant's brother, and Mr Bob Smith, both of whom had a number of previous convictions for dishonesty, and so it was for the jury to know those facts. The recorder suggested that, if questions were asked, the appellant would be at risk under proviso (1)(ii) if he gave evidence.

"In a ruling the recorder said: 'What [counsel for the appellant] is seeking to establish is that the people by reason of their previous convictions were more likely to have committed the crime. If he is seeking to establish that the crime, turn the penny over what he is seeking to establish is that the appellant was less likely than those other people to have committed the crime.'

In due course the questions as to previous convictions of the other persons, who were not called as witnesses, were put, and the recorder granted a prosecution application for leave to question the appellant about his own character."

His Lordship said that the matter turned on the words of proviso (1)(ii). It had been conceded that, in order to justify the putting of previous convictions to the appel-

lant, the matter had to be brought within those words.

The statutory words fell to be given their ordinary and natural meaning. Their Lordships found it impossible to hold that the questions which were put to the prosecution witness, Mr Robert Ludlun, were "with a view to establishing his (the appellant's) own good character."

The questions were asked with a view to establishing the bad character of the two other men and nothing else. The answer "Yes" to the question "Have they previous convictions?" had nothing to do with the appellant's character.

As Mr Justice MacKenna had put it in argument—a view entirely right in the court's opinion—it was not implicit in an accusation of dishonesty that the accuser himself was an honest man. The Crown's argument to the contrary could not be accepted.

It might be that proviso (1)(ii) ought to cover such a case as the present, but that could only be a matter for Parliament.

It was held that the appellant's conviction was quashed. The appeal was allowed. The appellant was allowed to give evidence. The appellant was allowed to give evidence. The appellant was allowed to give evidence.

The appellant was allowed to give evidence. The appellant was allowed to give evidence. The appellant was allowed to give evidence.

Queen's Bench Division

## Crossman Diaries: Attorney General not to appeal

*Attorney General v Times Newspapers Ltd*  
*Attorney General v Jonathan Cape Ltd and Others*

The Attorney General, Mr Sir John Sillit, QC, is not to appeal against the decision of Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, not to grant an injunction restraining the publication of volume one of Richard Crossman's book *Diaries of a Cabinet Minister*, a commentary on Cabinet decisions and political events between 1964-66, or of extracts from the book in *The Sunday Times* (The Times, October 2).

Last Thursday the Lord Chief Justice accepted an undertaking from Times Newspapers Ltd not to publish further extracts from the Diaries for eight days while the Attorney General considered the question whether to appeal against the Lord Chief Justice's judgment.

In a statement in the Lord Chief

Justice's court today Mr Harry Woolf, for the Attorney General, said that the Attorney General's application for an injunction to restrain the publication of accounts of Cabinet and ministerial meetings and other confidential discussions contained in volume one of the Diaries, it had been asserted by the defendants, the publishers of the book, Jonathan Cape Ltd and Hamish Hamilton Ltd, and *The Sunday Times*, that the courts had no power to restrain the publication of the Diaries, that nature except in extreme cases where national security was involved.

The submission was rejected by the Lord Chief Justice, who upheld the Attorney's contention that when a minister received information in confidence the court could restrain its publication in breach of that confidence.

In those circumstances the Attorney had carefully considered the

question whether the major issue of principle having been decided in favour of an appeal against the Lord Chief Justice's judgment, the Attorney General had taken into account both the Government's intention to legislate to amend the Official Secrets Act, and that Lord Radcliffe's committee of Privy Counsellors were considering the principles which should govern the publication of ministerial memoirs and the arrangements which should be made for the selection of principles, and that in framing their recommendations the committee would be able to do so in the light of his Lordship's judgment.

The Attorney General had therefore concluded that an appeal would not be justified.

Mr Woolf said his Lordship that following his judgment statements had appeared in the press—not in *The Sunday Times* or *The Times*—that suggested that he had

said that the courts would not restrain publication of confidential communications between civil servants and ministers. He added that if that were correct his Lordship might feel as there was to be no appeal, that he should indicate whether, in his judgment, he was referring to the Crossman case or whether his statement amounted to a general ruling to the effect that the courts had no power in any circumstances to restrain publication of confidential advice by civil servants to ministers.

The Lord Chief Justice replied that the former and not the latter was intended.

The defendants were awarded the costs of the applications.

The Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act, 1973, came into force on Dec 18, 1973, not on April 18, 1973, as stated in McDonald v Empire Carcase (Blackburn) Ltd (October 8).

## Science report

### Medicine: Breast feeding and conception

Throughout the world women are aware that they are less likely to become pregnant again so long as they continue breast feeding their most recent infant. Indeed, in some developing countries lactation is still the most widely used contraceptive method, with a prolonged period of breast feeding may also be crucial for the nutrition of infants in a subsistence economy.

The mechanism by which lactation prevents conception is becoming clearer as part of the current wave of research interest in prolactin, a pituitary hormone. Prolactin is one of two pituitary hormones concerned with milk production; it is responsible for the secretion of milk by the alveolar cells in the breasts while the second hormone, oxytocin, is concerned with the transfer of the milk into the lacteal ducts where it is available for suckling.

Low levels of prolactin are present in the blood at all times, but during pregnancy its secretion gradually increases so that by the time the baby is due to be born the level has risen to four to eight times the non-pregnant values.

Lactation does not occur at that stage, however, because high concentrations of oestrogen in the blood block the action of prolactin on the breasts. Shortly after delivery of the baby the oestrogen level falls and lactation begins. If the baby is allowed to breast feed, the action of suckling stimulates the pituitary gland to maintain a high output of prolactin and so the process of lactation is continued by a biological feedback mechanism.

Should the mother decide not to breast feed the prolactin output drops to non-pregnant levels within a day or two. The normal cycle of ovulation and menstruation is an effect of the

secretion by the pituitary of two further hormones, follicle-stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone, which control the menstrual cycle.

Their secretion returns to its normal pattern within two or three weeks of delivery but the response of the ovaries is critically dependent on the prolactin level in the bloodstream. Recent research at Oxford University has shown that women who continue breast feeding maintain low oestrogen levels. Indicators of a failure by the ovaries to respond to the pituitary stimulation.

It seems that prolactin acts directly on the ovaries preventing the maturation of the follicles from which the ova develop and preventing their secretion of oestrogen. In the absence of breast feeding the re-establishment of normal ovarian function may be rapid enough for ovulation and the conception of a new pregnancy to occur as early as six weeks after delivery.

Regular breast feeding however can maintain prolactin secretion at a level adequate to suppress ovulation for at least ten weeks and sometimes longer. Unfortunately, even if continued lactation and continued breast feeding produces a secretion of prolactin which declines and ovulation resumes before lactation ceases, which explains why women who rely on breast feeding to protect them against further pregnancy are so often eventually disappointed.

However, the Oxford report suggests that ways may be found to keep up the prolactin levels and perhaps use its contraceptive action as a natural means of spacing pregnancies.

By our Medical Correspondent.  
Source: British Medical Journal, October 11 (page 82).

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# Building slump may last to end-1976

By Malcolm Brown

A further significant decline in building activity over the next 15 months is predicted by the National Council of Building Material Producers.

In its latest forecasts, prepared at the beginning of the month and published yesterday, the council says that by next year the industry's output in real terms could be back to the levels of a decade ago.

Output, measured at constant prices, will be 8 per cent down this year compared to 1974, the council says. A further fall of 3 per cent is expected in 1976 after the very low levels of 1974 and 1975.

"This shows the appalling prospect of a drop of over 18 per cent in total construction output in Great Britain between 1973 and 1976, at which time the value of output at constant prices will have very nearly reverted to the 1964 level", the council says.

Predictably two of the worst hit sectors will be the commercial and industrial building, hit by the continuing reluctance of industry to invest.

Private commercial orders have fallen substantially, the council says. The output forecast for 1975 is a fall, at constant prices, of 20 per cent followed by a further fall of 15 per cent in 1976.

The available evidence suggests little progress in industrial building. Demand for oil plant, one of the relatively buoyant sub-sectors, is expected to fall next year, which will eventually have a depressing effect on output. The council anticipates a 5 per cent drop in output this year followed by a further fall of 8 per cent in 1976.

It continues to be gloomy about housing prospects. Financial constraints on local authorities will prevent them from maintaining the rate of building achieved in the first half of this year and this slackening will continue through 1976 the council predicts.

Public sector estimates are for 150,000 starts and 150,000 completions in 1975 and 145,000 starts and 150,000 completions next year.

In the private sector, the council says, there seems to be reasonable confidence for 1975 but the general shortage of money in 1976 is expected to delay any further improvement in this sector, which, despite recent improvements, is continuing to run at a relatively low level. Forecasts are for 140,000 starts and 145,000 completions in 1975 and similar levels in 1976.

There seems little hope of any resurgence in public works.

## Suppliers to challenge BSC scrap policy

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent  
Scrap-buying policies being applied by the British Steel Corporation are being opposed by Britain's scrap industry, and the steel industry could find aspects of its policy challenged in the courts.

Opposition to the BSC's policy was raised at a meeting in London yesterday of the British Scrap Federation, when more than 200 members attacked what they saw as an attempt to rationalise the scrap industry without adequate consultation, and to favour a few selected scrap supplying companies at the expense of the majority.

In particular the federation's members are angry at premium prices being paid to some scrap dealers which they claim have a distorting effect on the market—allegations denied by the BSC—and also at new arrangements for the supply of scrap to the BSC.

The corporation is seeking to reduce the number of scrap companies supplying material to its works over the next few months. One of the alternatives to the BSC is to enter into a three-year agreement with a direct supplier who would then market the scrap to other customers.

The stipulation that agreements must be for three years and should cover all material from a non-direct supplier has apparently been laid down by the BSC. But the BSF is advising its members not to enter into any agreement with selected suppliers until the situation has been sorted out. Mr Roy Boast, the organisation's executive vice-president, told yesterday's meeting that the federation was seeking counsel's opinion both in London and in Brussels on the legality of this clause.

## Slow growth blamed for industrial strife

Slow growth of the economy and of real incomes was the basic cause of Britain's industrial relations problems over the last eight or 10 years, Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, said in Canada last night.

The situation was "aggravated by the anomalies created by statutory incomes policies and the unsuccessful attempt by governments of both parties to regulate the activities of trade unions by law", he told a group of industrialists at a conference in Toronto on the business outlook for 1976.

Sir Ronald added that what ever the theoretical merits might be, the practical objections to bringing the law into this sphere of life in Britain were overwhelming. "For reasons that are deeply rooted in British history, our trade unionists provides a focus for militant action which

damages not only industrial relations but also respect for the law."

He added: "If Britain had made a determined effort after the initial rise in oil prices she could have brought inflation under control in 1974."

"Instead we went down the blind alley of the miners' strike and the three-day week. This was followed by a period of minority government, with two General Elections in one year and all the inhibitions on decision making which this kind of situation brings."

Export hopes: Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, says announced the board's annual report published yesterday that any hope of expansion in business and employment in Britain must be export-based.

## £7m Japanese order for EMI brain machine

Japan has placed the largest single order yet received for the EMI-Scanner, the British computer-based brain X-ray machine. The order is for 33 machines, together worth £7.4m. This brings the orders for the scanner to more than 340, together worth more than £55m.

Mr John Read, EMI chairman, said: "For the Japanese, who are among the most technologically advanced nations in the world, to place an order of this size with a British firm is not only a major compliment to British scientific and engineering skills, it is also a massive vote of confidence in the EMI-Scanner project as a world-beater on an international scale."

## Bahrain looks to key bank role with offshore units

From Our Correspondent

Bahrain, Oct 9  
A bid to make Bahrain a dominant banking centre in the Arab world is behind a decision, just taken by the Bahrain Monetary Agency, to grant limited banking licences to banks who wish to establish offices here to undertake large scale loan and deposit business on a regional basis.

The decision, which has official approval and which is estimated may attract a further 30 banks to open offices here, is regarded as of great importance to Bahrain's future. Such banks, which will be designated "offshore banking units" (OBUs) will not be permitted to deal with the public in Bahrain and will not add,

therefore, to present overcrowding of foreign banks here. They will be mainly engaged in taking large deposits from the governments, ministries of finance, central banks, and banks of the surrounding rich countries, besides making medium term loans where needed.

This will provide a service for the Arab world that has not existed before, according to officials sources here. An annual licence fee of \$12,000 (about £12,500) is payable for an OBU licence. No taxation on OBU profits is planned or proposed by the Bahrain Government. Existing fully licensed banks may apply for an OBU licence for non-resident business.

## NRDC boosted annual surplus to £845,000

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent  
The National Research Development Corporation yesterday announced a surplus of £845,000 for the 1974-75 financial year, an increase of £91,000 on 1973-74.

In its annual report, it says: "The corporation's cash position remains satisfactory and for the third year in succession we have been able to finance all our activities and investments without recourse to additional borrowings." Expenditure on development (normally through joint-venture agreements) rose to £31.7m but amounts authorized for investment fell to £4.3m. Licence income increased to £9,04m, of which over £7m was received in foreign currencies (principally dollars). More than £2m of this was subsequently paid to inventors.

(National Research Development Corporation, 26th annual report and statement of accounts, 1974-75. Published by the NRDC, London.) Backing inventiveness, page 21

# GROVEWOOD SECURITIES LIMITED

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN, MR. JOHN DANNY WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 1974

As this will be my last Chairman's Statement before we become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eagle Star Insurance Co. Ltd., I think it is appropriate that I should leave on record the bare facts of Grovewood's phenomenal performance as a public quoted company since July 1961.

Our subscribed ordinary capital in 1962 was £45,500 and in 1974 £174,489.

For 1962 pre-tax profit was £168,833. For 1974 it was £3,278,734. Average profit over the 13 years was £948,500 per annum. During the period we earned £12.3m profit, distributed £2.4m in dividends, and paid £5.4m in taxation. The number of employees rose from 400 to 6,000. The market value of our equity increased from £1.5m to £20m.

Grovewood will remain an independently managed organisation and its activities will be developed.

I proclaim my utmost confidence in the Company's continued success.

Copies of Report are available from 48 Circus Road, London NW8 3JF.

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

MOTOR RACING CIRCUITS TELEVISION ELECTRICAL & HOUSEHOLD GOODS

CHEMICALS & ENGINEERING

## Wilkins & Mitchell Limited

Manufacturers of Wilkins & Mitchell power presses and Servis washing machines

The following are extracts from the Circulated Statement of Mr. H. R. Wilkins (Chairman):  
The results are particularly disappointing since we have experienced a high level of activity. The lack of profitability is attributable in the main to unprecedented inflationary factors. The total dividend is 2.275p per share (same).

Servis Domestic Appliances Limited: There was a downturn in the U.K. washing machine market, but we were able to maintain and improve our share. Our exports were again a record. Steps have been taken to lessen the effect of supply interruption by broadening the source of supplies where possible, and should enable us to double the production of the new Servis Automatic Washing Machine. This should make a decisive change in the fortunes of Servis Domestic Appliances Ltd. in the latter half of the coming year, provided there is no major downturn in the home market.

Wilkins Servis Pty Limited: Although overall sales of domestic appliances fell sharply due to the recession in the Australian economy, this subsidiary has maintained its share of the market and produced a satisfactory profit.

Wilkins & Mitchell (Power Presses) Limited: Despite a full order book and an increase in turnover, negligible profits have resulted due to the high rate of inflation. The Machine Tool Division has a full order book to the end of the calendar year and good prospects for abroad.

Prospects: Given stability of economic and trading conditions, future prospects for our company are good. This type of business is always first to improve when opportunities show.

Salient Features  
52 weeks ended 29th March, 1975  
Turnover £36,614,000  
Trading profit £28,000  
Surplus to turnover 0.40p  
Earnings per ordinary share 1.90p  
Profit retained (£8,000)

The Report and Accounts were adopted

## Fewer fatal accidents in construction last year

Fatal accidents in building dropped from 230 in 1973 to 161 last year but this was no cause for complacency, Mr Bill Simpson, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, said in London yesterday.

He told a Safety in Construction conference that the incidence of fatal accidents for every 100,000 men employed in construction had dropped from 22.7 in 1973 to 16.4 in 1974.

Simple accidents keep happening with horrific regularity, Mr Simpson said. Ladder accidents alone accounted for 20 deaths and 2,000 serious accidents each year. Excavations, not timbered because they were only to be open for a couple of hours, too often caused death or injury when the sides caved in.

### £30m Ghana smelter

Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation of California announced yesterday that it is to spend more than £30m in expanding its aluminium smelting plant in Ghana.

### Embassy American

Imperial Tobacco, through its W.D. & H.O. Wills subsidiary, is making a bid to capture a share of American style cigarette sales in Britain. Wills is backing its entry with a new cigarette, on sale from Monday, called Embassy American.

### 195 jobs to go

Ward White Group is to close its factory operated by Peters Slipper at Walsingham, Norfolk, and make 195 workers redundant at the end of this month because of the recession in the industry. But Norwich of Norwich has won a £200,000 Russian order for women's shoes and furnished boots.

### Canadian prices up

Canada's consumer price index, reflecting a slower rate of growth than in the previous three months, rose 0.2 per cent to 141.5 in September from 141.2 in August.

### Ottawa plans freeze

A Canadian government programme of voluntary wage and price controls combined with a price freeze will be announced on October 13, in an attempt to contain inflation, government sources said yesterday in Ottawa.

### Herstatt payout soon

Cologne, Oct 9.—Main creditors of the collapsed Herstatt bank will soon receive a second instalment on their compensation quotas, liquidators said here. The payment, amounting to 30 per cent of the quotas, will be made in cash or by cheque, said a spokesman. Sixty per cent has already been paid out.—AP-Dow Jones.

## UAW attacks Ford Motor for using imported parts

Detroit, Oct 9.—The United Auto Workers has criticised Ford Motor for using some foreign-built engines and transmissions in its sub-compact Pinto model while thousands of American car workers are laid off.

Mr Ken Bannan, UAW vice-president in charge of its Ford department, also assailed the company for its decision to build a mini-car in Europe for sale in the United States in 1977. Last month Mr Henry Ford II said the decision to build the mini-car in Germany or Spain was based on savings in time and capital investment. There was no immediate comment from the company on the UAW charges, which appeared in Ford Times, a UAW magazine. "Instead of fighting the imports, it looks like Ford has decided to join them," Mr Bannan said. "Such a move on their part will put only hurt their employees in this country, but the economy of the nation as well."

Dumping inquiry: The UAW has engaged special counsel and an economic service to investigate dumping charges against three European car makers, Mr Leonard Woodcock, the union chief said in Tokyo. He told reporters the UAW carried out its own investigation in July and August after strong indications of dumping by Volkswagen, British Leyland and Fiat.

## Business appointments

### New chairman named for Ford of Europe

Mr John McDougall has been elected chairman of Ford of Europe. Mr Harold Polling has been elected president. Mr McDougall replaces Mr William Ford, who has been elected to the board of directors of Ford Motor Co. in the United States and appointed executive vice-president in charge of North American automotive operations. Mr Polling takes the place of Mr McDougall. Mr K. Johnson, who joined Dunlop as director of administration in 1974, has been appointed to the board.

Mr D. C. P. Camberoni and Mr J. C. McIlbourne have become board members of Constructors John Brown.

Mr Jack Ferguson, Mr Robert Hill, Mr J. C. C. S. Ankaracron and Mr Alan Skinner have been directors of Chemical Bank Trust Co.

Mr E. J. Humphries, United Kingdom, comptroller of Royal Insurance is to retire on December 31.

Mr Caroline Miles, Lady Bowden and Mr John Copp have been appointed part-time members of the Director and Managers Commission.

Mr D. S. Gray and Mr A. L. Peck have been elected to the board of Stryce Deeds, Chairman. Mr Christopher Bland, has become chief executive and Mr Roger Huwiler has been made sales director.

Mr Robin Young has been appointed managing director of D. G. Mason.

Mr R. S. Colwell, financial director of Patina-Vessey and Schermuly, has taken over the responsibilities of chief executive pending the appointment of a new managing director. Mr Brian Maslin becomes resident product specialist in Saudi Arabia.

Mr C. B. C. Smith has been named sales director of Clarke Homes.



Mr K. Johnson who joins the board of Dunlop Ltd.

Mr John Duhig has been named director of Superior Packaging. Mr Alan Marlborough becomes managing director.

Mr Berkeley Smith has become director of the Independent Television Companies Association programme, secretariat as from January 1.

Mr Martin Cromwell has been appointed marketing manager of John W. Brown & Co. Mr Brian Maslin becomes resident product specialist in Saudi Arabia.

Mr C. B. C. Smith has been named sales director of Clarke Homes.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Fair prices and Burmah Oil

From Mr J. M. L. Stone

Sir, I would like, if I may, to make a number of comments on your thoughtful piece (October 7) about the Burmah Shareholders Action Group campaign:

1 Whereas at the start of our campaign we represented small shareholders only, we have now been joined by a number of major institutions with both moral and financial backing. Our support base has now broadened significantly and continues to do so daily.

2 So far as government intervention in Burmah is concerned, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Department of Energy has acknowledged that the Government's policy towards North Sea oil did affect the stock market in 1974-75. It was this effect on the market that was reflected in the drop in the value of Burmah's stock, thus triggering off Burmah's financial problems; in turn they themselves affected the market and ultimately enabled the Government to acquire the stock at a price which had the guise of a scientific and fair approach.

3 The cynical assertion by the Paymaster General—repeated by you—that a "fair price" in a forced sale is the best price that the seller can get can be seen clearly, the Bank of England which, according to best information, recommended a profit-sharing arrangement with Burmah (re-

jected by the Government), did not consider an outright sale with the market at its nadir to be fair. It will be interesting to see in due course whether the courts concur with you in accepting that a company's banker (for that is what the Bank of England was at the time when it acquired the BP stock) can acquire an asset from its customer at any price that it (the banker) dictates.

4 We agree that in a system of pure capitalism the circumstances of their loss and the fact that it was sold decent citizens who put their savings into Burmah would give them no grounds for complaint. However, Britain does not have an unchecked capitalist economy: rather it is a mixed one, in which as much, if not more, weight is now given to social responsibility, public acceptability, and fairness. It was this Government which in the last "bull market" underlined its views on the distinction between savers, investors, and speculators, devising legislation for protection, encouragement, and penalisation respectively. Unlimited reward for success and the full penalty of failure is not part of the ideology of this Government.

The succession of UCS, Meriden, Court Line, the secondary banks, British Leyland and Burmah shows what urgency must now be given to the formulation of a code of conduct and principles for government

intervention in industry, at present so arbitrary, unjust and inconsistent. Yours faithfully, J. M. L. STONE, Hon. Treasurer, The Burmah Shareholders Action Group, 4 Albany Court Yard, W1.

From Mr B. Webb Ware  
Sir, Your Financial Editor is unduly hard on the Burmah Shareholders' Action Group and the small shareholders, whose interests they represent. If you are financially embarrassed and go to the pawnbroker to pledge goods to raise the cash, you do not expect him to say that he will only provide funds if he buys the goods outright at a small fraction of their value. That is a close parallel with the Burmah Oil transaction with the Bank of England.

As for the suggestion that the shareholders were in Burmah Oil shares for gain and so tacitly accepted the risk involved, I can only refer to the comments made to me by an authority in the City, who had known Burmah Oil and its management for many years, that it was universally considered more as a Scottish investment trust than an ordinary company. It is a novel idea that widows and orphans consider such a trust as a risk venture to look after their milk.

B. WEBB WARE, Stoberry Cottage, Graffham, Sussex.

### Better status needed for production managers

From Professor K. G. Lockyer

Sir, Once again attention is being drawn to the low level of investment in the United Kingdom on plant and machinery. More disturbing yet, the general public—commentators such as yourselves—is the extremely parlous state of the management of production in this country. A number of quite independent pieces of evidence attest to this state.

First, at a recent closed Door seminar on industrial management very senior executives in multinational companies stated that the quality of production management in the United Kingdom was inferior to that in parallel companies overseas.

Secondly, "Production management" is fast by British industry to be in desperately short supply. The Owen Report states: "As a matter of fact, only nine out of the 258 business graduates covered in our sample found jobs in the production field. . . . All that we can say with confidence is that industry requires . . . many more 'production men' (BSEI, 1974)."

Thirdly, a MTRA report (1966) on the utilization of machine tools shows that in the United Kingdom they tend to be utilised only 40 per cent of the "time available". An increase to only 44 per cent utilization would represent a 10 per cent increase in productivity without any increase in either capital or labour. Such an increase is achievable by more effective organisation.

Next, postgraduate students rarely study production management. "In terms of loss from functional areas, the most dramatic movement was in production. Although 17 per cent of the business graduate sample surveyed was in production before going to business school, only 6 per cent returned. Further wastage amongst those who did return was such that the time questionnaires were completed in late 1972, only 3 per cent of the samples was in production." (Business Graduates in Industry, B.I.M. 1974).

Finally, undergraduate students engineering and/or production management (Production Engineer, May 1975).

The production function is the key determinant in the prosperity of this country yet somehow a culture has grown up which sees the quite erroneous belief that "making things" is not an occupation fit for a gentleman (or gentlewoman).

It is vital that this fatuous impression should be changed, and changed speedily. It is possible, though undesirable, to buy new machines from overseas, but quite impossible to import good production managers in significant numbers since effective production management is people centred.

We must "grow" our own production managers, pay them well and accord them the status that their importance deserves. Without this cultivation, investment in plant and machinery will be completely wasted.

Yours sincerely, KEITH LOCKYER, Professor of Operations Management, Management Centre, Bradford University.

### Red tape and consumer protection

From Court Baden

Sir, We have all been asked to help to keep prices at a reasonable level, and the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection was set up (and is paid for by us, the taxpayers) to be vigilant in this matter. Perhaps your readers would be interested to hear how unfortunate I have been in my dealings with this department.

As at the beginning of the year I received a bill for a rental agreement representing an increase of almost 100 per cent on the previous year's figure, I wrote, on March 23, to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection. On April 23 I received a letter from them apologising for the delay in answering and saying that, as I live in the Bristol area I should write to their Bristol Office. I did so immediately.

On May 7, the Bristol office replied that as the company concerned was registered in London my complaint should be dealt with by the London office to whom they had forwarded my letter. I waited for a month and receiving nothing, I wrote again to the London office on June 4. To date I have had no reply.

I have now given up the struggle and paid the 100 per cent increase. Yours faithfully, COURT BADEN, Norton Manor, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, October 7.

### Algeria raises cost of crude by \$1 a barrel

Algiers, Oct 9.—Algeria has increased the price of its crude by \$1 to \$12.75 (about £6.40) a barrel, effective from October 1.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna to raise prices, according to the news agency APS today.

Oil sources said the Algerian rise was about 18 cents less than the full 10 per cent increase agreed by Opec if difficulties to compensate for transport costs and quality between individual producers are kept constant.

The price of a barrel set by individual Opec countries varies from a norm agreed by Opec according to differences in quality and transport costs.

The sources said the full significance of the new Algerian price will be apparent only when the price of Libyan, Iraqi and Nigerian crude are made public. A \$0.5 rise has been announced for Saudi Arabian crude.

The Algerian increase is applicable from October 1 and has been approved by clients of the state oil and gas enterprise, Sonatrach.

APS said Libya, Iraq and Nigeria should boost their prices by more than \$1.05. Algeria criticized these countries when they lowered their prices last spring.

Opec conference agreed that the current prices of other countries had been undercut and that these countries must, in addition to the 10 per cent rise decided by Opec, readjust their prices upwards, APS said.—Reuter.

### Move to drop US tax on foreign investment income

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Oct 9  
The House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means has agreed to include provisions in new tax reform legislation for the abolition of American taxes on the interest income due to foreigners from United States portfolio investments.

The committee reached the decision as it continued its exhaustive review of almost all United States taxes. It is almost impossible to determine just when the committee will finalise its legislative proposals and there is little chance of the full proposal becoming law without major changes.

Indeed, with the latest immediate tax-cutting programme announced by President Ford likely to delay the major tax reform work of the committee and produce a blurring controversy between the President and Congress, prospects for any decision regarding taxes on foreigners ever becoming law look somewhat remote.

The committee has agreed that taxes should be eliminated for foreign non-resident individuals on the interest income they receive from holdings of American stocks and shares. The tax rate on such income is now around 30 per cent.

In many cases it is probable that these foreigners might have to face increased taxes on this income in their own countries once the United States tax has been eliminated.

Some of the committee members who opposed this decision argued that all the committee was doing was increasing the tax revenues of foreign countries through reducing the income of the United States Treasury. The committee estimates that the revenue loss—the Treasury could total some \$164m (about £82m) this year if the decision was put into effect immediately.

The administration has not stated its views on the matter, although it might well be ready to accept the Ways and Means decision.

## County and District Properties Limited

The major town centre development at Chatham is now nearing completion. Nearly all the retail space has been let and several enquiries are in hand for the office block. The industrial developments at Acton and Enfield have now been completed and just under one half of the space at Acton has been let. The shopping development in Blackpool is proceeding satisfactorily.

When completed and fully let, these developments will increase rental income by some £1.4m per annum.

Whilst we cannot be unaffected by the general economic situation, I remain confident in the long term future of our Company.

Summarized above are some of the points made in the Chairman's Statement for the year ended 31st March, 1975. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, 46 Green Street, London, W1Y 3PJ.



## LAINING

LOCAL  
OR NATIONAL  
CONSTRUCTION SERVICESmaller unions  
near closed shop  
will push them  
out of Vauxhall

R. W. Shakespeare

Plans recently announced by American-owned Vauxhall to introduce a union "closed shop" throughout its British operations have led to a clash between the big unions, which dominate the motor industry, and leaders of some of the smaller craft unions, who claim that a calculated attempt is being made to squeeze them out of the car plants.

The "closed shop" plans, which will mean that about 80 non-union Vauxhall workers out of a total labour force of about 27,000 will have to join a union or face dismissal, will be discussed at a meeting today of the company's joint negotiating committee.

Vauxhall has already said that from a specified date—yet to be announced—all workers, other than those who can claim exemption on religious or "reasonable" grounds, will have to join a union within a specified time.

The trouble is caused by the fact that the announcement by the company and the interpretation being put on it by shop stewards, particularly at the Luton car plant, suggest that union membership will be confined to three main unions, the Transport and General Workers, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Electricians.

Plumbers Union, which has several national claims of some of the smaller engineering unions, notably Mr. Eastwood, general secretary of the Plumbers Union, is already disgruntled by the fact that the company is not going to be forced to join one of the big unions and is not going to put any restrictions on its recruiting new members.

Today's talks could produce agreed starting date from

which the eight-week period for union recruitment will begin. Officials of the main unions have already given a warning that once this time limit expires, they will instruct their members not to work with non-union employees.

Meanwhile, British Leyland's plans for worker participation in management, which are based on the recommendations of the Ryder report, have become the basis of a determined effort by shop stewards to retain and extend their influence in the vehicle plants.

In the new autonomous bus and truck division, which has about 30,000 workers, agreement has already been reached on a formula which will mean that senior shop stewards will get the seats on the new joint management bodies almost automatically.

However, in British Leyland Cars, which has more than 100,000 workers distributed throughout a very much larger number of plants, the company has proposed a different system which could involve secret ballots of workers to select representatives.

But now the company has been told that this plan is unacceptable to a representative group of senior stewards from the car plants which has been handling the negotiations and that they have the support of national union officials.

The car plant stewards are demanding the same sort of "automatic appointment" system that has been agreed in the bus and truck factories.

Three days' work—Nearly 2,000 production workers at Chrysler's truck plant are going on a three-day week. The men at Luton and Dunstable, Bedfordshire, have been on a four-day week for two months, and the company said yesterday that the three-day week would continue until the end of 1975.

Stewards at a recent meeting of the 4,200 shop floor labour force at British Leyland's Bagnall, West Lothian, factory go on to a four-day week from today.

US-Soviet  
grain talks  
meet serious  
hold upBy Wallace Jackson  
Commodities Editor

Secrecy, broken only by contradictory statements from both sides, now surrounds the talks which have been going on—and may still be proceeding—in Moscow between the United States and the Soviet Union on a long-term agreement for further American grain sales to Russia.

Although it has been reported that Mr. Charles Robison, the American Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, is still in Moscow, Mr. Ron Nesson, the White House press secretary, is reported to have said in Washington that Mr. Robison has left Moscow for another meeting in Paris, although there were "no snags" in the grain talks.

Soviet foreign trade officials, who had earlier said that their ministry was handling the talks, yesterday denied responsibility for the discussions and refused to comment. Officials of the United States embassy in Moscow were no more forthcoming and would not confirm or deny that negotiations had resumed.

It is clear from the sensitivity being shown by both sides that the talks have run into serious difficulties and these may not be confined to haggling about "escape clauses" in any agreement. Some sources in Washington say that the chances of a successful grain deal hinge on completing a long-term oil sales agreement between the United States and Russia.

It is now very much an open question whether the United States will resume grain sales to the Soviet Union this month, even if the Department of Agriculture's latest grain report, due out today, indicates that there will be sufficient supplies, which was a condition laid down for resumption by President Ford when he suspended further sales in September.

An Australian deal: It was announced from Canberra yesterday that Australia had signed a contract to sell a further 500,000 tonnes of wheat to the Soviet Union. This brings sales to Russia since July to a total of 1.5m tonnes. The total sales could be worth \$2,200m (more than £123m).

A better taste, page 21

## Herbert to make 1,200 redundant

By Patricia Tisdall

Alfred Herbert, Britain's troubled machine tool manufacturer, announced a huge redundancy programme last night in an attempt to meet conditions laid down by the Government under its aid programme. The company gave a warning that 1,200 workers out of about 6,000 would lose their jobs during the next few months.

The redundancies were announced after a meeting between the management and employee representatives. The impending dismissals are expected to include about 900 staff and indirect workers and about 300 production men. Most of the 900 will be taken from the group's Coventry headquarters.

This is part of a reorganization plan aimed at restoring the group to profitability. It was devised as a result of lengthy consultations with government and independent consultants prior to an offer of up to £25m worth of government funds being injected into the group.

The corporate plan submitted to the Department of Industry by a joint company and shop floor working party made provision for around 900 redundancies. There has also been conjecture about the closure of several plants apart from the unprofitable heavy grinding machine sector which the company has already indicated it will phase out.

Until the loan which involves

equity to be vested in the National Enterprise Board, takes effect, the Government agreed to authorize the company's additional bank borrowings up to a maximum of £15m.

It has now become apparent that Alfred Herbert's total debt may have already exceeded this level. Figures for the half-year to April indicate that bank borrowings may be between £12m and £13m.

Last month the guarantee on borrowings was increased to £10m, the sixth increase since the group asked for state assistance a year ago. Originally £2m, the guarantee was raised to £3m in February, to £4m in May and then to £5m in June.

The half year results also showed that losses had risen to

£3.3m and there has been no sign of any improvement since April. More seriously for its future prospects, the group's order intake, according to Mr. J. W. Buckley, Herbert's chairman, is running at half the current output "so it is quite clear that we face extremely difficult conditions in the immediate future".

Conditions in the machine tool industry overall are very gloomy.

Earlier this month Wickman, a John Brown subsidiary and another of the industry's large manufacturers which is also based at Coventry, said it had started discussions with the unions about limited redundancies among its staff there.

Banks write  
off millions  
in US stores  
bankruptcyFrom Frank Vogl  
Washington, Oct. 9

W. J. Grant, the American store chain which last week announced the largest bankruptcy in the retailing business, today gave details of a reorganization programme involving the closure of 201 of its 1,074 stores by the end of the year.

The company announced that full management control had been handed to Mr. Robert Anderson, the former Sears Roebuck executive vice-president, who joined Grant to save it from collapse last April.

The task facing him is immense, particularly as shareholders are now filing suits and because suppliers are showing some reluctance to continue doing business with Grant.

Its bankruptcy, which is second only in scale to that of Penn Central in the history of American failures, caused barely any reaction in the stock markets, where it had long been expected. Grant had been experiencing difficulties for years and in its last report for the year to July 30, it announced a net loss of \$11.3m (about £56m) on sales of \$693m (about £320m), compared with a loss the previous year of \$22m on sales of \$806.6m.

But investors nevertheless took another look at the big banks when Grant made its statement. Since then the reaction has been one of considerable unease about the manner in which some of the country's biggest banks throw their cash about.

Morgan Guaranty quickly announced that it was writing off \$35m of its \$97m loan to Grant, and First National City Bank followed with a similar announcement on its \$97m loan. Chase Manhattan Bank also has a \$97m loan outstanding to Grant and will probably make a huge write-off.

The bankruptcy statement showed clearly how desperate the situation really was. On September 4 the company had total assets of \$1,020m and total liabilities of \$1,050m.

There were short and long term loans outstanding to banks of \$640m and the bank swiftly grabbed \$50m of the Grant cash they held.

Much of this has been returned to pay off suppliers and maintain their confidence, so that the company has won a breathing space to reorganize without having to close all its stores immediately.

Argentine reserves  
drop to \$169m

Argentine official reserves fell by \$10m (about £5m) in the first week in October to \$169m, the Argentine central bank said in Buenos Aires yesterday.

The money supply expanded by the equivalent of \$114m during the week to \$2,069m. The country has foreign debts of some \$10,000m, a substantial portion of which will fall due in the next few months.

Eurocanadian seeks  
backing on Furness

By Our Financial Editor

Eurocanadian Shipholdings may appeal to other shareholders of Furness Withy for backing in its efforts to get representatives on the Furness board.

But in a statement last night Mr. Frank Narby, chief executive and controlling shareholder of the Bermuda-based Eurocanadian, said he saw no logic in Furness becoming 100 per cent Canadian-controlled, even if the British authorities would permit it.

Mr. Narby's statement, speculation on the future of Furness, in which Eurocanadian has built up a stake of just under 30 per cent, is likely to continue following the Furness board's blunt refusal to accept the five Eurocanadian people on to its board.

Eurocanadian also holds some 37 per cent of Manchester Liners, an important North Atlantic container operator controlled by Furness with two thirds of the equity.

This is the key to Eurocanadian's interest in Furness, and Mr. Narby says: "We strongly believe that the North Atlantic container interests of Manchester Liners / Furness should be merged with the private investment holding."

The Canadian Government is a member of a wealthy Canadian family with assorted business interests.

As the Furness shares gained a further 12p to 241p yesterday, Mr. G. N. Murrant, Furness deputy chairman, said: "Mr. Narby's statement takes us back to square one in that Eurocanadian is trying to get representatives on our board from where they could exercise pretty considerable influence, to say the least."

He said the Furness board would continue to resist such moves by Eurocanadian and believed that if it came to a vote, either at an extraordinary or annual meeting, shareholders would back the board. Some 25 to 30 per cent of Furness shares are held by institutions.

Mr. Narby says Eurocanadian may put to shareholders of Furness the question of whether it might be desirable to have a shareholder who is an associate of the company with interest in Freight, Swissair, and both companies are apparently controlled by Mr. Narby, a Canadian national resident for the past five years in Freiburg, and by a private investment holding.

The Canadian Government is a member of a wealthy Canadian family with assorted business interests.

Financial Editor, page 41

Dismissed meat chief  
defends settlement

Mr. John Anson Payne

Mr. John Anson Payne yesterday denied that his expected £170,000 compensation plus £35,000 pension benefits from FMC represented what critics have described as "the unacceptable face of capitalism".

The money would be to compensate for the 61 years of his contract still left and other benefits. Mr. Payne said: "I think contracts should be honoured. I think that is an acceptable face of capitalism."

The criticism of the proposed settlement came on Wednesday from Mr. George Cartell, chief executive of the National Farmers' Union. It is the union's development trust that has demanded the removal of Mr. Payne as £32,000-a-year executive chairman of FMC—formerly the Fasttrack Marketing Corporation—Europe's big meat wholesaler group.

The trust holds 40.5 per cent of the company's shares and its demand, accepted by the board, will be put to shareholders next month.

Mr. Payne, aged 58, has held the job at FMC for only 17 months.



Mr. John Anson Payne: Payment not unacceptable face of capitalism.

He said on ITN's First Report programme yesterday that he thought the taxman will take about £100,000. After the tax, the total hardly compared with the cost of transferring a good footballer, he added.

Financial Editor, page 21

Cooperative of former  
Norbury men seek aid

By Malcolm Brown

A workers' cooperative set up five weeks ago among former Norbury men, is shortly to take up a position as a selective financial assistance under the Industry Act.

Workers attending the incorporation meeting of Tuscan Insulation Contractors Association in London yesterday disclosed that its associate company Tuscan Insulation (Workers' Participation) had already had talks with Department of Industry officials. TICA will act as the operating company buying labour from the workers' participation company. The workers' company was incorporated last month to bring together 52 former employees of the Norbury Insulation group, which collapsed last year.

Mr. Robert Woods, a former

managing director of Norbury, who was bankrupted by the Norbury collapse, is shortly to take up a position as a selective financial assistance under the Industry Act.

TICA has been formed on a 50/50 basis by the members of the Tuscan Insulation (Workers' Participation) cooperative and outside shareholders, one of which is believed to be a Middle East bank.

Mr. Woods said yesterday that he expected the company's first turnover, worth more than £80,000, would be signed by the end of this month and that potential orders for a further £300,000 of work could follow within a matter of months. He expected that all the worker shareholders would be in the full time employ of the new company by Christmas.

Financial Editor, page 21

## Crisis meeting called on Ulster economy

n emergency conference

to discuss the rapidly deteriorating state of the Northern Ireland economy has been called in Belfast next Friday.

The one-day crisis meeting will be attended by about 100 people, including the entire Northern Ireland Economic Council—the powerful advisory body on which both unions and industry are represented—together with delegates from the Confederation of British Industry and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, farming representatives and leading academic and government economists.

Mr. Stanley Orme, Minister of Finance for Northern Ireland, who

has overall responsibility for Ulster's economic affairs, will head the meeting.

The unprecedented conference follows a succession of closures of the Larnach factory of Standard Telephones and Cables, where 800 workers produce telephone exchange equipment and colour television sets. There are also fears that seasonal jobs will be lost at STC's Sharnbrook plant at Monkstown, near Belfast.

In another blow suffered by the Ulster economy this week, Goodyear's industrial products division announced a voluntary redundancy scheme to reduce its 1,600-strong work force at

its Craigavon plant in county

Armagh.

R. W. Shakespeare writes: Trade union leaders representing about three million engineering and shipbuilding workers in Britain are to press the Government for special measures to tackle the situation in Northern Ireland, where more than 10 per cent of work people are unemployed.

They want an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister, to lobby ministers with responsibility for industrial matters and to make a direct approach to Ulster companies that may be thinking of further cutbacks.

Two senior Northern Ireland union officials made a special

visit to a meeting of the national executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions in York yesterday to plead for help.

The officials, Mr. Andrew Barr and Mr. James Graham, chairman and secretary of the Northern Ireland Committee of the Confederation, warned the confederation that the total unemployment figure, which has almost doubled over the past year, could rise sharply.

They told confederation leaders—who represent 19 different unions—that the average 10.5 per cent unemployment throughout Northern Ireland concealed many "black spots".

EEC expected  
to act soon  
on steel crisis

Measures designed to alleviate

the crisis facing the European steel industry are expected to be formulated by the EEC Commission in the next two weeks. This was disclosed by a commission official yesterday and follows talks earlier this week between leaders of the industry and Signor Altiero Spinelli, the Industry Commissioner for the EEC.

That meeting failed to agree on measures needed to remedy the difficulties, with French and Italian delegations pressing the commission to declare a state of "emergency".

Scrap challenge, page 20

Await minister says terms  
greed for oil takeover

Peter Hill

Agreement on terms for the oil government to acquire remaining shares in the oil Co held by Gulf Oil British Petroleum were the subject of yesterday's meeting of the oil minister, Mr. Abdulaziz al-Jazemil. But last night a spokesman for BP said reports of the settlement were premature.

Reports from Kuwait quoted the minister as saying that companies—which have held a 10 per cent stake in KOC, with government holding 60 per cent—would be guaranteed five years of Kuwaiti crude for the next 25 years. They would also receive \$56m (£33m) in compensation for their assets.

According to the reports, the minister said some outstanding issues between the government and the companies still had to be solved, mainly involving the lifting of Kuwaiti crude.

By agreement, he said that next five years the two companies would be allowed to produce 3 million barrels a day

of KOC's output—currently standing at about 2 million barrels daily.

BP and Gulf had also been guaranteed 80,000 barrels daily for the second five-year period.

According to the minister the final text of the agreement was to be hammered out in a further session last night at which they would seek to settle other issues outstanding since 1973.

He gave no details of preferential prices to be granted to the companies for the KOC oil, but Kuwaiti sources indicated that the companies would receive a 15 cents a barrel reduction on future purchases of KOC crude.

Indonesia move: Pertamina, Indonesia's state-owned oil company will raise prices by no more than 3 per cent in the wake of the latest crude price rise by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, according to informed sources in Tokyo.

They said Pertamina completed negotiations by October 2 with foreign companies,

Brake on pace  
of OECD  
price increases

Paris, Oct. 9.—Consumer

prices in the 24-nation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) increased 0.4 per cent in August, the lowest monthly rise since 1970.

The slower growth, which compares with increases of 0.8 per cent in the previous three months, reflected improved price performances in the United States, Japan, West Germany, Italy and Britain, it said.

In the three months ending August, OECD consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 9.25 per cent, compared with 11 per cent in the previous three months.

Bowmaker is set fully to  
repay 'lifeboat' support

By Our Financial Staff

Bowmaker, the financial credit arm of the C. T. Bowring financial group, will become the first institution independently to rid itself of "lifeboat" support when in about a month's time it fully repays deposits from the support group.

Bowmaker's support funds from the lifeboat group had fallen from around £90m at their peak to "single figures" at present, Mr. Edgar Bowring, chairman of C. T. Bowring, said last night.

In addition to £20m of three-

year loans, which Bowmaker raised from syndicates of banks last month in order to reduce its lifeboat support, the finance house has also received a £5m term loan from the Bank of England. With this, and with Bowmaker's deposits now back at a healthy level, Bowmaker expects to repay all its lifeboat support within four weeks as these loans become due.

Bowmaker's £29m turnover from loss to profit in the first half of this year was the chief factor behind a doubling of Bowring's first half profits to June 30, announced yesterday. They rose from £3.19m to £6.85m.

Financial Editor, page 21

## How the markets moved

The Times index: 141.92 +2.36

The FT index: 339.5 +8.9

Rises				Falls			
Barclays 10p to 285p	10p to 285p	Imp Chem Ind 5p to 285p	5p to 285p	Atlas Stone 3p to 99p	3p to 99p	Jersey Ext 3p to 105p	3p to 105p
Brit Am Tob 6p to 303p	6p to 303p	Maynards 10p to 340p	10p to 340p	Brit E. Hedges 2p to 38p	2p to 38p	KJewman Ind 2p to 30p	2p to 30p
Dunlop Hedges 3p to 57p	3p to 57p	Pilkington Bros 11p to 284p	11p to 284p	Brit Leyland 3p to 35p	3p to 35p	Sungel Besi 2p to 43p	2p to 43p
Furness Withy 12p to 241p	12p to 241p	Polly Pack 1p to 51p	1p to 51p	Cumulus 2p to 18p	2p to 18p	Stephen J. 2p to 7p	2p to 7p
GE 11p to 134p	11p to 134p	Town Com 4p to 134p	4p to 134p	Finlander 2p to 28p	2p to 28p	Union Flat 2p to 140p	2p to 140p
Globe Hedges 13p to 368p	13p to 368p	Thorn Electric 10p to 208p	10p to 208p	FMC 4p to 60p	4p to 60p	Waters Flat 2p to 140p	2p to 140p
Hawker Siddeley 6p to 304p	6p to 304p	Unilever 10p to 398p	10p to 398p	Glyn Wed 21p to 804p	21p to 804p	Wm Hudson 1p to 16p	1p to 16p

Sterling rose 45 points to \$2.0480. The "effective devaluation" rate was 29.5 per cent.

Gold rose \$1 an ounce to \$140.25.

SDR rose 1.17377 on Wednesday while SDR-E was 0.574927.

Equities staged further gains. Gilt-edged securities had a quiet session.

Reports pages 22, 23 and 24

## On other pages

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Stock Exchange  
d pays £3m

Stock Exchange Commission Fund had paid out the end of last month the failure of seven firms. Current estimates are that these total £4.3m, but that total could be reduced to £2.2m as a result of total recoveries accurate.

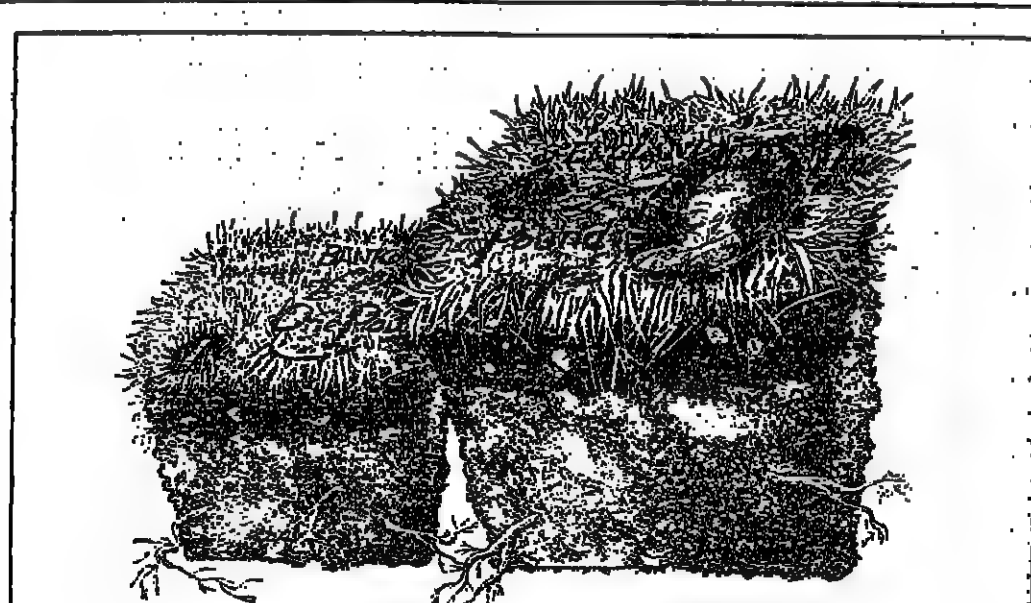
ling the list of possible charges against the fund pman & Rowe, for which 10 has so far been paid estimated total claims 3m and estimated net after recoveries of £1.2m.

re after recoveries of £1.2m are estimated at £500,000. H. H. O'Connor, at £250,000, Butler Priest at £255,000, vey & Candy at £80,000.

## GDP

Gross domestic product at constant factor cost (1970=100) and seasonally adjusted:

	Based on	Based on	Based on	Average
	on	on	on	age
	data	data	data	age
1972	104.3	103.7	104.6	104.2
1973	108.4	108.7	110.4	109.5
1974	110.5	109.3	109.7	109.9
Q1 1975	102.8	99.2	101.4	101.1
Q2 1975	104.1	104.2	104.6	104.3
Q3 1975	104.0	102.4	105.4	103.9
Q4 1975	106.3	108.9	107.0	107.4
1973	111.3	108.4	110.7	110.1
Q2 1973	109.1	109.2	109.8	109.4
Q3 1973	109.3	108.5	110.8	109.5
Q4 1973	108.1	108.8	110.5	109.1
1974	107.2	103.8	107.7	106.2
Q2 1974	110.8	108.3	110.2	110.1
Q3 1974	111.1	111.8	112.2	112.0
Q4 1974	110.2	112.4	109.7	111.0
1975	111.2	109.3	109.4	110.0
Q2 1975	109.0	108.8	108.4	107.4

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Engineers, food lead the way up

Against a background of continuing, though unconvincing, reports that the Government is soon to announce substantial cuts in public spending, the London stock market returned to its upward path yesterday.

The institutions were said to be present in some force with a number of good buying orders but—as a matter of perspective—bargains struck were still below 500p. Trading was selective with nearly all the interest centred on the industrial leaders and the firmness of the tone was accentuated by a shortage of stock.

The FT Index made good progress all day, advancing 7.5 points by 3 pm and 8.9 by the close, for a figure of 339.5. Though gilt closed up to a quarter earlier, there is now a feeling that a two-way pull has started to emerge on the fixed-interest side.

First National Finance has sold its 27 per cent stake in Birmingham Mint to National Transport Tokens, a group of unquoted bus companies, for 45p a share. BM's shares closed unchanged at 40p on the market.

There was special interest in engineering shares with Tube Investments up 8p to 256p, GKN 2p to 217p, and Dowty, still boosted by its Swiss order, 4p to 135p. Other features on the pitch came from companies reporting and here were profits. Spirax Sarco were 4p firmer, at 20p, and Johnson Firth Brown added another 2p to 45p after Wednesday's statement.

Food shares were also well in the fore. Rises of 10p were registered by Tate & Lyle 222p, Reckitt & Colman 325p, and Maynards 340p, in the latter case on a bullish result earlier in the week. Rowntree were also a good spot and rose 6p to 163p.

Among the "blue chips", the best were Glaxo, which rose no less than 13p to 365p after the weakness of the previous day, EMI, where a big Japanese scanner order added 8p to 211p, and Thora "A" 288p and Unilever 398p, both added by 10p. Smaller gains of up to 5p came from ICI 283p, GEC 124p and Boots, also at 124p.

The banks advanced strongly after their recent depression and were led up by Barclays, 10p to 235p, followed by Lloyds 7p to 232p, Midland, the same amount to 272p, and National Westminster, 3p to 238p.

Other financials to do well 5p to 190p and Union Discount, where the jump was of 10p to 305p.

The feeling that an all-out bid must sooner or later come from Eurocanadian put on another 12p to 241p for Furness Withy, making a total of 21p in two days. Some adverse comment on the NFU proposals upset FMC and the shares slipped 4p to 60p, but the hope of terms soon from Demisley gave an added boost to A&O International which closed another 6p to the good, at 102p.

The reasons given by Mr J. Watson, chairman of Permab, for rejecting BTR's 24p terms left the shares unchanged at 28p. There was considerable demand for Weyburn Engineering at 270p and some speculation in Peter Brotherhood was enough to raise the price 7p to 66p.

Furness apart, there was considerable support for other shipbuilders notably British & Commonwealth (6p better to 177p) and P & O, up 5p to 101p. Press comment helped Woolwich, usually a fairly static share, and by the close the price was a point firmer at 60p.

Oils moved very much in line with the rest of the market and BP 35p to 355p and Ultramar 5p to 193p.

Gold shares made a late rally after a dull day with FS Geddis, St Helena, and Hartbeest prominent among the heavies. De Beers again moved up well and at the end were 12p firmer at 294p.

The proposals for modification of the Land Bill threw up a number of features in a fairly firm properties pitch. The best was Great Portland, up 7p to 230p, but others worthy of note were Stock Conversions 145p, Eastenders Estates 185p (both better by 5p) and Hammerson, which was cradled at 340p.

Bejam was another isolated firm spot, putting on 6p to 107p, while back in shipping Reardon Smith were not much affected by the increased stake from the Panamanian group.

A big leap in half-time profits had Bowring 3p firmer to 61p, while Siemens Hunter lost a point to 22p after its

half-timer. S. Casket was unchanged at 40p after a higher return while Mentmore Manufacturing managed to firm just half a point to 113p.

Carpets International still reflected its recent statement and put on another 4p to 71p and Currys were also firm for the same reason. Sangamo Weston were also on the firm side.

The trend continued in afternoon trading. Engineers, insurances and foods all continued to move ahead and Oldham Brewery, helped by bid speculation, were quoted at 100p, this being 5p better.

Gilt had a rather quieter day than of late and seemed to steady down. The main feature in "shorts" was a 1 point rise in Treasury 3 per cent, 1977, which has just gone ex-dividend.

Buying of the "top" stock, Treasury 9½ per cent, 1980, continued and the Government broker raised the price by a further 1/16 point.

Heavy demand from institutions, attracted by the yield, has pushed Ocean Steam's shares steadily ahead during the past week and yesterday the process was accelerated by rumours that the group has arranged a contract for its liquid gas carrier, to be delivered in 18 months. The shares firmed 8p to 125p.

"Longs" had a drab session, with prices tending, if anything, to ease slightly. Some stocks were 1 point lower on the day, but most closed unchanged. Business was at low levels.

Equity turnover on October 8 was £42.1m (12,118 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Royal New, Shell, British American Tobacco, EMI, IC, new, Furness Withy, Ocean Transport, Babcock & Wilcox new, Rank "A", Brooke Bond, Boverton, Burnah Oil, BP, Hanson Trust, Boots, Tate & Lyle, Bejam, Transamerica House, MRFPC and Guinness.

## Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Atlas Electric (25p) Int	0.35	0.35	10/12	1.15	1.15
C. T. Bowring (25p) Int	0.71	0.57	8/12	2.11	2.11
Bronx Eng (10p) Int	0.66	0.6	28/11	2.4	2.4
Brumtons (25p) Int	0.61	0.55	28/11	2.2	2.2
Eng & Caledonian (25p) Int	0.65	0.65	28/11	2.10	2.10
James Halstead (10p) Fin	0.16	0.44	—	0.67	3.71
Hilton Footwear (20p) Int	1.15	1.05	24/11	4.96	4.96
Chas Hunt (25p) Int	2.65	2.4	15/1	2.75	2.75
E. Jacobs & Son (25p)	0.5	0.5	10/11	1.55	1.55
London & Euro (15p) Int	0.8	0.8	5/1	0.75	0.75
Mentmore Mfg (5p) Int	0.15	0.16	2/2	0.18	0.18
Siemens Hunter (10p) Int	0.57	0.72	7/1	5.01	5.01

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on a per share basis. Where there is a business News dividend are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. \* Forecast.

## Spirax leans on sales abroad as UK orders start to fall

By Terry Byland

The increase in overseas business won by Spirax-Sarco Engineering has flowed through strongly in the first half of the current year. Indeed it helped to lift pre-tax profits from £207,000 to a record £1.2m in the six months to June 30. The order intake continues to exceed last year's level, but the company warns shareholders that a reduction in the delivery backlog will affect second half sales.

The Treasury has approved the dividend increase proposed in the rights issue document, and the interim payment is therefore raised to 3.50p a share from 3.06p before the rights issue.

Turnover jumped from £7.5m to £10.04m in the half year. Pre-tax profits were struck after allowing for an increase in interest charges from £183,000 to £395,000. Borrowings are now significantly lower than in December 1974 and the board says that it continues its efforts to improve the return on assets employed.

More than half the business, which ranges throughout the fluid control field, is now overseas, where levels of business are described as satisfactory in most cases.

The board comments that the group owes its present level of activity to its involvement in energy conservation. Selling organizations were established last year in Australia, Germany, Japan, and South Africa. The board commented at the last annual meeting that the benefits of growth into overseas markets had not been realized.

Spirax manufactures through-out Europe, as well as in South America, New Zealand and Scandinavia.

No forecast is made for the current year but the board is on record as predicting further growth.

The company has benefited this year from the planned maintenance of stocks in the aftermath of the three day working week experienced in the previous twelve months.

On turnover down from £3.53m to £3.19m, pre-tax profits of wire rope manufacturers Brumtons (Musselburgh) dropped from £867,000 to £740,000 for the six months to June 30. The shares dipped 2p to 80p yesterday.

The board warns that profits for the full year will be affected by the seven-week production strike in the summer and by reduced demand for some of the company's products.

However, a maximum dividend payment would be covered so a total of 8.77p, against 7.97p, is promised. Meanwhile the interim dividend goes up from 3.51p to 3.54p.

At the start of the year the

## Bruntons' shares dip as board warns on profits

By Tony May

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At the start of the year the

board retained a buoyant outlook after turning in a record profit of £1.76m pre-tax for 1974, with both export and home markets going well ahead.

A high level of production had been achieved in the final quarter of last year and this continued into the opening months of 1975 in all sectors except the strip mill. The fall in demand for steel strip was however due almost as much to destocking as to a fall in consumption.

For the two main divisions, wire and wire rope, the outlook at the time was bright. Generally though, some of the smaller divisions were expected to experience some reduction in demand later in the year.

## London &amp; European buys a half of Ulster Finance

London & European Group, in banking, is to get 125,000 shares in Ulster Finance, a group that in turn has 42 per cent of investment vehicle Lamont Holdings where ex-Spirax-Sarco man Mr Tony Buckley is now managing director. L & E will pay £710,000 in cash to win half of Ulster Finance which will also part company with Ulster Bank, an offshoot of National Westminster Bank.

Ulster's chairman, Mr Desmond Lorimer, and Mr Buckley and Mr Hugh O'Neill have agreed to buy the shareholding in Ulster Finance now held by Ulster Bank. A placing of 2,300,000 shares of London & European with institutions has also been completed.

Meanwhile London & European reports a loss before tax of £498,000 for the half year to last June against profits of £427,000 in the same months the year before. Like others, the group has had to make further write-offs against property, but it is now effectively liquidating its property financing business.

Losses should be "materially reduced" by the end of the year, profits should then reappear, and the stake in Ulster represents a big step in the development of investment banking now that property lending is finishing. Mr B. J. Frichard, the L & E chairman, points to the group's strong assets, low borrowings and good resources. The group duly pays a net interim dividend of 0.8p a share again, or 1.23p gross.

## Algerian \$400m loan

A \$400m loan to Algeria, divided into equal six and five-year tranches has been signed in Algiers. Both tranches bear interest at 11 points above Interbank Eurodollar rates for 12 months for the remaining period.

## Atlas Stone reject Eternit

The board of Atlas Stone has written to shareholders unanimously recommending them to reject the offer from Compagnie Financière Eternit SA. Mr Geoffrey Davis, chairman, tells shareholders that if the offer is rejected the board intends to recommend a final dividend for the year to October 31 of 5.38p gross, making a total of about 8.23p gross, against 6.79p gross for last year. This has been approved by the Treasury.

## Trianco board wins

Mr Lawrence Webb's attempt to unseat the chairman of Trianco, Mr Alexander Boyle, together with other board members, and to replace them with his own nominees, has failed. Mr Webb is a director and major shareholder of Trianco. Mr Boyle followed his victory with the prediction of a return to the dividend list during 1976. There has not been an ordinary dividend since the 0.4p for 1971.

## Sanyo Electric \$20m convertible offer

Sanyo Electric is to issue US dollars \$20m convertible bonds, 1990, in the Eurodollar market through an international syndicate managed by Daiwa Securities Co. Schroder Wagg, together with Robert Fleming & Co, Kuwait Foreign, contracting, investment, Sumi-

tomo White Weld and Swiss Bank Corporation (Overseas).

Final terms are expected to be fixed on October 21, but present market conditions indicate a coupon of around 7½ per cent. The coupon will be payable semi-annually.

Sanyo was incorporated in Osaka, Japan in 1950 and with its subsidiaries and affiliates, is now one of the leading Japanese manufacturers and distributors of a wide variety of consumer electronic products.

## Lloyds &amp; Scottish out Heller in Lawrie bid

Walter Duncan & Goodricke Limited has received an offer from Lloyds & Scottish Group to acquire Alex Lawrie Factors for £1.750m. In view of this, the board of WDG has agreed with Walter E. Heller International Corporation that the negotiations for the sale of Lawrie to Heller for £1.60m should be discontinued.

The board intends to recommend that the L & S offer be accepted.

L & S intends to continue the operations of Lawrie under its existing management and staff. WDG & G is being advised by Baring and L & S by Warburgs.

## J Halstead earns and pays less

The downturn in profits continues at plastics and textiles group James Halstead (Holdings). In spite of sales expanding from £28.1m to £11.59m in the year to June 30, pre-tax profits fell from £439,000 to £318,000. In 1972-73, pre-tax profits were at a peak of £719,000.

Extraordinary items of £199,000 are deducted from the year's after-tax profits, compared with a credit of £14,000 in

1973-74. These items to be deducted are mainly provisions for closure losses for a subsidiary. The final of 0.25p gross becomes the year's total, compared with 1p gross.

## Geo Kent hopeful

The George Kent group's profit is still improving, in line with forecasts made at the annual meeting. Mr John Norley, managing director of the instruments and automation division, said the company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Brown Boveri Kent, adheres to its forecast of much improved profits in the first half to end-September.

## S Jerome warning

Textile group S Jerome & Sons (Holdings) turns in taxable profits for the half-year to June 30 increased from £180,000 to £202,000 on turnover up from £3.3m to £3.5m. Earnings a share work out at 3.8p against 3.4p, while the interim payment is 0.77p gross (0.75p). On a warning note, the chairman attributes the climb to production and delivery of orders booked in 1974 and early 1975, and bearing no relation to current trade, which has shown a steady deterioration.

## Bronx buoyant

On turnover up from £2.28m to £4.4m for the half to May 31, Bronx Engineering Holdings stepped-up its pre-tax profits from £102,000 to £174,000. The interim dividend in turn is raised from 0.89p to 1.02p, and the maximum permitted final is forecast. Order intake is good, and full-time profits should maintain the interim upswing.

## Siemens

Although pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 are up from £102,000 to £133,000 at

Siemens, Hunter, the tobacco and educational materials group, a fall this year from £427,000 to £350,000 is forecast. The board explains that costs are rising, and the unsettled economy makes an assessment of profits and sales difficult.

But the dividend is raised from 1.35p gross to 1.48p. Turnover went up from £4.9m to £9.05m.

## John Hilton rally

Last year the pre-tax profits of the John Hilton Footwear group dipped from a record £691,000 to £680,000, but there was a rally in the six months to August 1. Pre-tax profits went ahead from £186,000 to £230,000 on sales of £3.16m, against £256m. The dividend is 1.78p, against 1.56p.

Since August sales have "fallen somewhat", and forecasting is difficult.

## Barr &amp; Stroud wary

Glasgow-based engineers and instrument makers Barr & Stroud raised its pre-tax profit from £194,000 to £232,000 in the six months to June 30 on turnover raised from £2.16m to £2.8m. The board states that sales are down compared with the second leg of 1974, however, an increase in the cards in the present half, but cost escalation makes any fulltime prediction infeasible.

## Mentmore setback

Having achieved a record profit of £639,000 last year, Mentmore Manufacturing—which makes "Platignum" pens and plastic mouldings has shipped in the six months to July 31. Pre-tax profits are down from £263,000 to £258,500 on sales of £3.5m, against £2.9m. The dividend is held at 0.24p gross. The board is optimistic about second-half prospects.

## Ours is a one-word history...progress

There is a very simple explanation for Bowring progress. It is that we have always placed the customer's need for service before everything. As each need became evident, we set about meeting it. Given this policy, growth was natural, unforced and constant.

The first expansion came in 1811 when a Bowring trading venture was set up in Newfoundland. To provide more goods, we built ships. With ships we carried other men's cargoes. Cargoes needed to be insured, insurance had to be underwritten. And since insurance is only one aspect of a total financial picture, banking and financial services were added.

Today, this policy of service which led to this extensive and continuous growth is still the reason behind the successful operations of the Bowring Group of Companies. The invisible earnings which have placed the Group high in The List of Leading

Exporters have been possible only through the Group's practice of putting the customer's needs first.

The Bowring Group offers you services which are world-wide. They include insurance and reinsurance broking, insurance underwriting, credit finance and leasing through Bowmaker Ltd., merchant banking through Singer & Friedlander Ltd., shipping, trading and engineering.

But the Group does more. It promises you a way of doing business which is dedicated to your interests.

## Bowring

C. T. Bowring &amp; Co. Limited

The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE

Telephone: 01-283 3100 Telex: 888321

In 1803, Benjamin Bowring opened a shop in Fleet Street as a watchmaker, silversmith, jeweller and engraver. From this one-man, one-price shop has grown today's multi-million pound organisation.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Aggressive minorities and the Takeover Code



Mr. Edgar Bowring, chairman of C. F. Bowring & Co. Ltd., forecasting a strong second half.

For Eurocanadian to buy 100 per cent control of Furness Withy would almost certainly cost it upwards of £70m. For the National Farmers Union Development Trust to swallow up the rest of FMC would cost it around £4m. The sums are relative to the resources available to the two companies, extremely substantial. So what could be more logical than for the boards of both companies to attempt to effect management and policy changes in their investments by using their existing muscle in the form of what, at least as far as NFU Trust's interest in FMC goes, could be called dominant shareholdings?

In the case of Eurocanadian, the company has rapidly built up a stake of just under 30 per cent in Furness Withy (as well as some 37 per cent of FW subsidiary, Manchester Liners). It has promoted the appointment of five EC nominees to the board. Not altogether surprisingly, it has so far been rebuffed. In the case of the NFU Trust, the trust owns a long-standing 40.9 per cent interest in FMC, allowing it to elect three shareholders to lapse following re-elections in the Monopolies Commission earlier this year, and is now proposing changes in directorships that will greatly enhance its strength in the FMC boardroom.

The obvious question raised in both situations is whether or not substantial shareholdings are potentially being yielded in the interests of the shareholders. And the obvious response would seem to be that the two cases offer a good example of both the protection afforded shareholders by the development of the Takeover Code in recent years, and of the reasons why it has been necessary to have such a code. In the EC/FW situation there would seem to be little reason to need to worry about the interests of the FW shareholders at this juncture, but in the case of NFU/FMC situation one can see good reasons why the City authorities should at least be demonstrating vigilance.

Take the Eurocanadian situation first. Here the position is quite simply that should EC increase its stake over and above 30 per cent, it will be required to make an offer to all other shareholders in the highest purchase price to date. Would such an offer then fail to attract acceptances, progress would be slow, and the EC would be extremely lengthy in the Code requiring a facility bid to all other shareholders, and each increase of more than 1 per cent in the offeror's shareholding in any 12-month period.

Should, on the other hand, EC not—as it suggested yesterday—be interested in making a scale bid, it can, of course, attempt to achieve its ends by requiring the FW board to call an EGM to seek shareholder approval for its boardroom proposals—and there is a reason why they should not do it. If they can put the FW board in a position where a majority of shareholders are convinced that such proposals were in their interest, they could then, even allowing for shareholder apathy, be in a powerful position to reject them.

The case of NFU Trust/FMC is somewhat different. It is a situation that is something of an anomaly in the sense that it is listed before the present Code has been fully implemented, and is unaffected by it at least as long as the trust made no other purchases of FMC shares. But the fact remains that in practice a 41 per cent shareholding is even stronger than the figure itself suggests, and may well be that the Panel does nothing in this instance that there must be a case for to consider insulating in ure, where similar positions exist and attempts are made to use them to effect management changes in a company, than any such protection.

The company yesterday issued a statement saying that its chief executive, Mr. Ross Colwell, had resigned after the resignations of Mr. Nelson and chief executive of the company, Mr. Nelson, who has already resigned his desk at High Post, started work two days before the Night just over the side of the Hampshire-shire border at Middle Post, as managing director of rival fireworkmen, Pop Industries. Nelson is now with him as marketing director.

The opportunity came their when Little got wind of Pop Industries' decision to buy the blue touch paper for the two time and retire. The two men then clinched a deal. Mr. Nelson, who is the owner of the company, under a Little and Nelson first a stake and then control. Pop Industries, in military and suchlike, an area, in which it competes with Pains, which the Hampshire does not make children's fireworks—yet. Little will be obliged to buy his for this year's Guy Fawkes, although he is confident enough when Business & Ross Davies spoke to last night.

posals should also carry the opportunity for other shareholders to sell out. In the meantime, it may well be that the proposals being put to non NFU Trust shareholders will enhance the future prospects of the company. To date, however, precious little information has been offered to back up such an idea and the Stock Exchange should at least see that such information is forthcoming well before next month's annual meeting.

### C. F. Bowring Momentum from Insurance

To the extent that it is attributable to the £29.2m turnaround to profits of £1.9m which was announced last month at Bowring, Bowring's own interim advance was discounted in the share price. But improvements elsewhere in the group, including £700,000 were good enough for a further 3p on the shares to 69p yesterday.

Insurance broking is the other area where there has been significant improvement, and this is not the end of the story. United States earnings derived from surplus line casualty and property business coming to London have been increasing rapidly and have almost certainly peaked yet. Broking contributed £7.2m of last year's £9.2m pre-interest profits and the contribution is obviously going to be considerably more this year. Given this and the turnaround at Bowring (now virtually free of lifeboat support and taking deposits at a much better level), Bowring's forecast of improved second-half earnings should be realised comfortably, even after eliminating the £800,000 exceptional loss in 1974.

Merchant banking is improving, though Singer & Friedlander may not be quite out of the wood yet with regard to provisions against loans. Moreover, the shipping market, hit by falling freight rates and inflation, is unlikely to do better than break even this year compared with near £1m profits in 1974 but against that insurance, underwriting and trading, also improved. There is probably still something to go for in the shares, on the back of the broking prospects and with Bowring now out of the wood.

**Interim: 1975 (1974)**  
Consolidated £69.8m  
Sales £322m (£235m)  
Pre-tax profits £6.85m (£1.9m)  
Dividend gross 1.10p (1.0p).

### Minster Assets A significant realization

Minster Assets has sold its head office, a prime City property, to an institution for £8.34m and has agreed to lease it back for 25 years, with five years' rent reviews at an initial rental of £725,000 a year. That represents a yield of 8.7 per cent, which puts paid to

some of those more optimistic views heard in recent weeks that the top-end of the market was improving and yields moving towards the 67 per cent band. Minister itself admits that initially it had been looking for a yield of around 71 or 72 per cent. But while such returns may be available on properties in the £1m-£2m price bracket, anything as big as Minister House evidently still requires a premium of a point or so over those levels.

Moreover, there is no question of the property having been thrust on to the market in the form of a forced sale. The deal has been done in anticipation of new Department of Trade and Industry insurance regulations, devised in the wake of the National Life collapse, which are expected to mean that, for the purposes of assessing solvency ratios, insurance companies will be required to hold more than 5 per cent of their gross insurance liabilities in the form of investments in any one asset.

Minister House was in the books at £9m, but this formula would have reduced its value for solvency margin purposes to no more than about £2.5m or £3m. Disposal was therefore inevitable. The sale put 2p on Minister's shares to 40p yesterday if only on the grounds that it clears up some uncertainties the residue of the unhappily-timed £6m property revaluation at the end of 1973. Admittedly, the deal involved a capital loss of £660,000, but in the rising value of investments elsewhere means that the solvency ratio is still upwards of 35 per cent. Meanwhile, British Midland Airways is continuing to recover strongly from the insurance interests are performing well and the Hutchinson stake is now safely in institutional hands. The prospective yield of 11.4 per cent seems secure enough, and the way ahead looks more stable than it has for years.

### Factoring Not for the small man

Factoring—providing finance for a company's debtors—has grown by leaps and bounds over the past five years, as cash flow has become so crucially important to corporate health. But in an area now dominated by the major financial institutions, notably the clearing banks, those companies in the factoring business without such heavyweight financial backing have found it increasingly heavy going to keep pace.

Thus, Lloyds and Scottish are making an offer for Alex Laurie Factors. Alex Laurie is one of the top three or four factors in the country, with a turnover last year of around £55m against total United Kingdom turnover of perhaps £550m. But it has now outgrown its parent, the small trading concern Walter Duncan and Co. of Glasgow, and existing borrowings of around £5.5m have prevented it taking on all the business it could have in the past few months.

Lloyds and Scottish already control International Factors, whose £100m turnover makes it the leading factor in the United Kingdom, and it sees Alex Laurie meshing in well with International with the latter having a turnover of £10m. Factoring and Alex Laurie the only factoring company doing "with recourse" business, which is more of a financing operation with name of the attendant risks of debt. The WDC is more than happy with the price—£17.5m—as this values the company at around 10 times last year's earnings and is £150,000 more than the sum offered by the United States company, Walter E. Heller—a deal that was in any case running into difficulties of its own.

## President Ford leaves a bitter taste in America's grain lands

There is now no doubt that the harvest in the United States this year will be a record one, with the all-time high maize and wheat production totals seen in 1973 passed by a healthy margin.

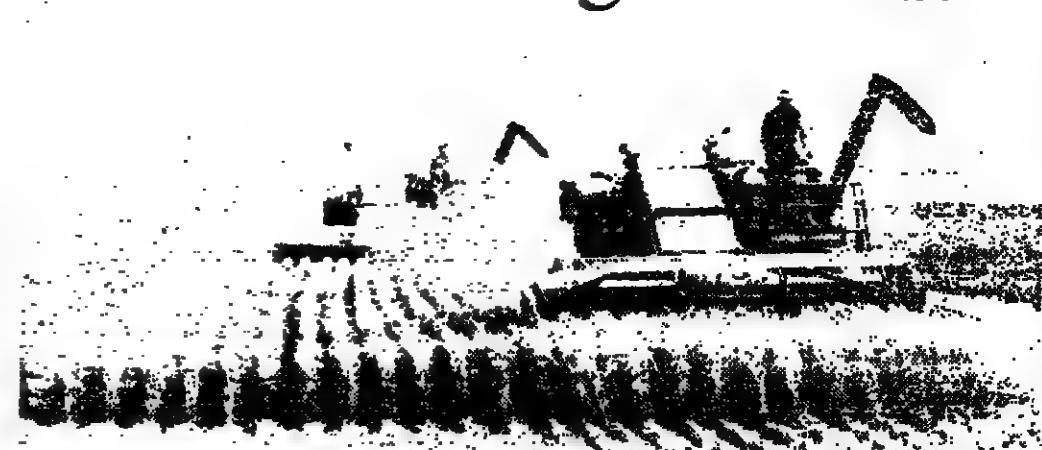
Farmers in Texas, Iowa and across the great grain plains of the mid-West are producing optimistic reports on the state of the harvest. Drought in some areas in early August appears to have had only a minor impact and the great success of the farmers will almost certainly be underlined next week by the Department of Agriculture when it publishes its new harvest estimates.

But the farmers are bitter about aspects of the present situation, and President Ford—whose election chances were long seen as being enhanced by the fervent support of the 5 per cent of the population that lives and works in agriculture—has made too many enemies for comfort.

The farmers have discovered that they cannot sell all their produce at what they call a fair price because of the imposition of a temporary ban by the President on new grain sales to the Soviet Union.

At the present point of the farmers the situation is frustrating and perplexing. Almost exactly one year ago they were urged by the President to plant as much as they could, assured that there would be markets for their produce.

They were convinced that at long last they had a President who believed in free enterprise, who had government intervention and regulation of business and who, unlike many earlier Presidents, would not interfere with the freedom of farmers to sell to the highest bidder. They knew as early as June that they were certain to produce more than enough grain to meet the demands of American consumers and satisfy massive foreign demand for American produce. They saw the great failure of the Russian harvest as a brilliant chance for them to greatly increase their incomes.



Gathering the United States harvest: farmers were perplexed by the ban on sales to the Soviet Union, from which they had been expecting a big boost to their incomes.

The Soviet Union, after all, had announced that it hoped to produce around 215 million tonnes of grain this year, but by July the best estimates put the total at 195 million and these have continued to fall to 175 million tonnes. The American farmer knew that only the United States could provide the massive amount of grain it might require.

Rumours of huge Russian grain purchases in the United States started to push prices up on the commodity markets, and by late July, after some Russian purchases had been confirmed, prices had soared.

The farmers remained confident that President Ford would keep his word and permit free exports, but they failed to appreciate the power of the trade unions and urban congressmen worried about the impact on consumer prices of Russian buying.

In mid-August, despite a new optimistic official grain report in Washington, the President ordered the temporary ban. Russians by then had bought in the United States some 9.8 million tonnes of grain out of total purchases in the West of 14 million tonnes.

The ban forced the Russians

to look elsewhere for grain and the farmers became worried. They saw prices fall and they feared that the Russians would find alternative sources of supply by the time the President lifted the ban.

To some extent the fears of the farmers have been justified, as the Russians have managed to buy some grain elsewhere, and prices have fallen from their earlier levels. The farmers also have the valid point that if farm subsidies are no longer to exist and if farmers are to be encouraged to grow as much as they can, they have a right to expect free and open world markets for their crops.

President Ford now argues that his action was fully justified, not only because of the drought—over the size of the American harvest but also because the Russians were becoming a major destabilizing force in United States markets.

The President has publicly started to differentiate between what he calls America's regular customers, such as the Japanese and the West Europeans, who each year buy in these markets, and the non-regular customers, such as the Russians, who bought some 19 million tonnes in 1972, then barely anything for the next two years and then appeared this year to be seeking even more than in 1972.

The farmers agree that getting the Russians to become regular customers would add stability to the markets and be a good thing for their own industry, but they maintain that the President could have planned more carefully for the possibility of massive Russian purchases, rather than suddenly banning sales in the midst of the harvest.

A top-level team of American officials, headed by Mr. Charles Robinson, Under-secretary for Economic Affairs at the State Department, is now in Moscow negotiating with Russian leaders.

President Ford has announced that he hopes an agreement can be signed within the next few days. This would, he said, hopefully be for a minimum of five years and involve minimum Russian annual purchases in the United States of five million tonnes. Prices in this agreement will be at market rates at the time actual purchases are made.

The temporary ban on sales will almost certainly be lifted when this agreement is finalised. The ban is now saving the purpose of a stick to beat Moscow into agreement. The Russians certainly do not like this sort of negotiating tactic, but all the indications are that

they will swallow their pride. The agreement could lead to their purchasing a further 10 to 15 million tonnes of American grain this year, and additional purchases of some five million tonnes by Poland, which has become an innocent victim of the controversy. Further large sales abroad would satisfy the farmers, and given the record crops, it is considered unlikely that new Russian purchases would be a commodity market prices up appreciably.

Certainly President Ford has lost farm support, and his policies in other economic areas have hardly made him more popular with the trade unions, despite his agreement to impose the temporary sales ban on the Soviet Union.

Mr. Robinson is also discussing the possibility of a deal involving the exchange of American grain for Russian oil, but nothing firm will emerge on this matter when the grain agreement is signed. At some later point, however, the Soviet Union could add stability to American grain markets and help the energy situation by agreeing to a long-term grain-for-oil pact.

The one outstanding matter yet to be resolved is that of the international longshoremen's union, the trade union of dockers and ship workers who instigated a boycott in American ports on the loading of grain for the Soviet Union. In theory the boycott could resume again in the near future, as the courts stopped the action with only a temporary injunction.

In practice, however, the willingness of the President to impose the sales ban and the agreement by the Russians to a new maritime pact that assures that one third of the grain is shipped to Russia at a high \$16 per tonne in American vessels, as well as the big lawsuits by grain-exporting companies, has killed any enthusiasm that might have existed among the dockers to continue their action.

Frank Vogl

## Giving British inventiveness a financial backing

Mention slag-based ceramics, meat tenderization, laryngeal prostheses and soft-ground tunnelling machines and the technological competence and imagination of the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) are indeed among the 327 development projects which the NRDC has backed over the past year, as was indicated yesterday when the corporation published its annual report.

Financially, the corporation is in good health. But how effective is it now in stimulating innovation in industry and exploiting British inventions? It has been a year of consolidation rather than one of substantial new achievement. Overall, the corporation is empowered to borrow £50m from the Department of Industry, of which only about £20m has been advanced—about the same level as last year.

"We've taken on new business at a slightly better rate than previously," Mr. William Makinson, NRDC managing director, said, "but we want for our services that might have been expected at a time when money is tight."

A side-effect which the corporation has seen has brought new projects of assessment. But after the traumatic Rolls affair, public finance is nothing new to the jovial Haughton, who, when asked how he managed to cover so much business ground and stay alive, replied: "I sleep fast."

As the world's steel industry confronts its worst crisis of the postwar period and wonders what to do next, top (above) brass from the British Steel Corporation (weekly losses running now at about £7m a week) are off both east and west to look for the answers. Chairman Sir Monty Finniston and four other directors are headed for Mexico City for the annual three-day conference of the International Iron and Steel Institute, where they will communicate with European, American and Japanese counterparts.

Meanwhile, Bob Scholey, the state steel undertaking's chief executive, is off with a study team of BSC and trade union leaders for a 10-day tour of the Japanese steel industry. The group assembles in Tokyo tomorrow where it will link up



Mr. William Makinson, NRDC managing director: the money is available to support further projects.

a financial nature, in which it has had to reconcile the interests of the firm concerned and its workforce with the statutory constraints on the corporation's powers.

In essence, this means that companies are coming back to the NRDC as project costs have risen more rapidly than was envisaged originally. The corporation normally prefers to take only one "bite of the cherry."

The NRDC's operations can be grouped broadly into the two categories of development and exploitation. In development, the flow of projects was maintained at about the same level—with 332 projects at the beginning of the year, 63 new ones started and 68 existing ones discontinued during the year, leaving 327 in being at the end of the year.

In terms of inventions communicated to the corporation for development and exploitation—the number increased by almost 30 per cent from 1,325 in 1973-74 to 1,703 in 1974-75.

Inventions from private companies increased by more than 40 per cent, as did those from government departments, research councils and hospitals.

Submissions from private inventors rose to 653, from 509 the previous year.

The 1973-74 emphasis on inventions aimed at combating pollution and using natural sources of energy continued; rotary engines and gyroscopic anti-gravity devices were particularly popular.

But despite the increased volume of proposals, the "bite rate" among private individual inventors remains low. Only about 23 per cent of submissions merited further assessment as potential development projects.

On the exploitation side, the corporation's £9m licence income included large sums, such as the cephalosporin antibiotics (Oxford University), selective weedkillers (Wye College), pole-amplitude-modulation electric motors (Bristol University), dental cement (Manchester University) and carbon fibres (Royal Aircraft Establishment).

Agriculture use of pyrethroid insecticides on present indications should provide a large source of revenue in the future. Computer software is one of the more unusual forms of industrial property which the NRDC is now exploiting. This arises mainly from work in universities, but also from other public bodies engaged in research.

Handling software has raised many new problems for the corporation, including those of providing adequate protection and effective marketing. The rapid pace of development in this field makes marketing particularly difficult.

The fact that the NRDC's general activity—in terms of development projects and licence agreements during the year—has remained roughly constant while new submissions have increased by about 30 per cent basically reflects the time-lag between submissions and their emergence as active projects.

There is no reason to expect that the 23 per cent business rate on submissions from individual inventors will improve.

But the number of 1974-75 submissions—in particular from industry, universities and government establishments—expected to result in significant new active projects during the present (1975-76) year.

Both Sir Frank Scholey, NRDC chairman, and Mr. Makinson stressed yesterday for projects to back.

And yet, in the present economic climate, companies' research and development is being cut back. The corporation has, in effect, a further £30m available to back innovative projects and in particular those that are positively in the national interest.

Beyond this immediate contribution which the corporation is keen to make to stimulating the speeding up industrial innovation in Britain—if only industry would take advantage of it—there is the longer-term problem of the overall balance of NRDC activities.

At present about 60 per cent, or about £6m, of the corporation's total revenue comes from licence income from the cephalosporin antibiotics. What will follow cephalosporin? That is the next question.

Kenneth Owen  
Technology  
Correspondent

## Business Diary: Fireworks display • Lockheed's tri-stars

There's still a mouth to go on Guy Fawkes Night, but looks as if they couldn't start the fireworks as early as the High Post, the headquarters of pyrotechnicians Pains-Wessels, enmity.

The company yesterday issued a statement saying that its chief executive, Mr. Ross Colwell, had resigned after the resignations of Mr. Nelson and chief executive of the company, Mr. Nelson, who has already resigned his desk at High Post, started work two days before the Night just over the side of the Hampshire-shire border at Middle Post, as managing director of rival fireworkmen, Pop Industries. Nelson is now with him as marketing director.

The opportunity came their when Little got wind of Pop Industries' decision to buy the blue touch paper for the two time and retire. The two men then clinched a deal. Mr. Nelson, who is the owner of the company, under a Little and Nelson first a stake and then control. Pop Industries, in military and suchlike, an area, in which it competes with Pains, which the Hampshire does not make children's fireworks—yet. Little will be obliged to buy his for this year's Guy Fawkes, although he is confident enough when Business & Ross Davies spoke to last night.

The deal gives both Little and Nelson the chance to return to the family milieu in which they started, although in time they will be the families in the chair. Little was with Pains before British Match bought it up, and Nelson was with the Dorking-based Schermuly pyrotechnicians before that, too, dropped into BM's maw.

Pains-Wessels, Schermuly is now one of the world's biggest makers of pyrotechnics. Although it is best known to the general public for its children's fireworks, its main stock-in-trade is marine smoke pesticides and, marine distress signals.

One such signal has no doubt been reported to Ian Gilbert, chairman of Wilkinson Match, the parent company formed from the merger in 1973, between British Match and Wilkinson Sword. The finding of a replacement for Little, as well as having the man himself running a rival shop just down the road, may be one of the last headaches for Gilbert in his present capacity.

He, like Little, is on the move. A chairman of British Match as was, Gilbert is due to retire at the end of this year, making way for Denys Randalph, his deputy and chairman of the former Wilkinson Sword.

Front-runners A dogfight is now going on in the boardroom of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation from which should emerge, by this time next year, the successor to chairman Daniel J. Haughton.

Haughton, well-known in Britain after his tireless and eventually successful efforts during 1971 to keep the TriStar Airbus project aloft after Rolls-Royce, providers of the engines for it, had gone bankrupt, went into retirement when he reached 65 next year.

Instead of announcing who will take his place, Lockheed has come out with a troika, one of whom, it is assumed in world aerospace and financial circles, will eventually get the job. They are Carl Kitchian, 61, who has been a Lockheed employee since 1941, and two accountants, both younger men, Roy Anderson and Lawrence Kitchner. Anderson now rate level with each other as vice-chairmen, while Kitchian comes slightly down the pecking order as president, a post that Kitchian formerly occupied.



Lockheed's Carl Kitchian.

Anderson, well-known in Britain after his tireless and eventually successful efforts during 1971 to keep the TriStar Airbus project aloft after Rolls-Royce, providers of the engines for it, had gone bankrupt, went into retirement when he reached 65 next year.

A four-man management succession committee is sorting out the runners. Our tip is Kitchian, whose wealth of experience in selling airlines is likely to overcome the drawback of his age. Haughton's final months in command are being rocked by the allegations that Lockheed gave bribes abroad to sell its aircraft and it has now delayed its annual shareholders' meeting, which was due on November 5, so that it can clear itself with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But after the traumatic Rolls affair, public finance is nothing new to the jovial Haughton, who, when asked how he managed to cover so much business ground and stay alive, replied: "I sleep fast."

As the world's steel industry confronts its worst crisis of the postwar period and wonders what to do next, top (above) brass from the British Steel Corporation (weekly losses running now at about £7m a week) are off both east and west to look for the answers. Chairman Sir Monty Finniston and four other directors are headed for Mexico City for the annual three-day conference of the International Iron and Steel Institute, where they will communicate with European, American and Japanese counterparts.

Meanwhile, Bob Scholey, the state steel undertaking's chief executive, is off with a study team of BSC and trade union leaders for a 10-day tour of the Japanese steel industry. The group assembles in Tokyo tomorrow where it will link up

with Bill Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation—already in Japan—for another meeting—and then embark on a hectic tour of leading Japanese steel plants. This visit forms part of the corporation's attempts to jack up productivity while convincing the lads that it is still necessary to make people redundant. The Japanese steel industry has reduced to be the world's most productive, Britain's rather less so.

Other members of the group include Gordon Sambrook, BSC's managing director, personnel and social policy, and Denis Delay, secretary of the TUC's Steel Industry Committee.

Paying by card Fed up with getting bad cheques from people who have had their cars towed away, or with dealing with the thousands of £6 fines at pounds in the London area, the Metropolitan Police are to accept payment by Barclaycard.

This will knock 5 per cent off the amount the police will get, but they seem to think it's worth it to be short of all the messing about. Barclaycard, however, isn't too crazy about the deal.

Its rule-of-thumb tells it that most transactions below £10 cost more to handle than the profit involved. On the other hand, it is argued, it is in Barclaycard's ultimate interest to offer as comprehensive a service as possible.

## Banking in the Middle East

On Tuesday, October 21, The Times is planning to publish a Special Report on Banking in the Middle East.

The introductory article will examine the impact on world economics of the shift in the allocation of wealth resulting from the oil revenues and their investment. Other subjects to be included will be the role of banks and their problem in reinvesting oil funds; where the money is being invested; the extent to which western banks are cooperating with and advising monetary authorities in the ME world, and an analysis of banking activities by country.

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## MARKET REPORTS

### Commodities

Continued from page 23

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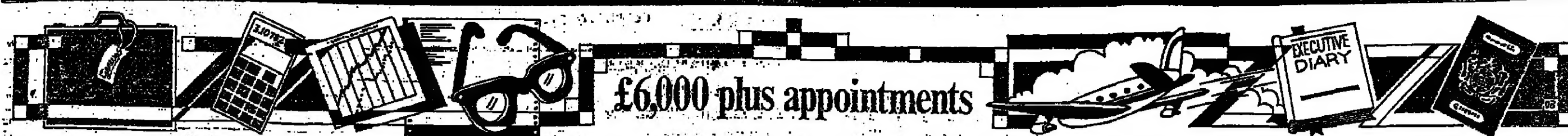






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## Training the managers of tomorrow

An encouraging example of British business thinking during the current recession has been the dogged determination with which most companies have sought to maintain previous high standards of training and staff development.

The "stick and carrot" strategy of the Government's training boards, with their levy / grant / exemption schemes, has undoubtedly been a major factor in this aspect of company policy.

But it would be unfair to discount the part played by forward-looking company chiefs who realise that training and education represent a crucial investment of Britain's future.

And while total figures for expenditure by British industry make discouraging reading in the current climate—the Department of Industry's latest survey of investment intentions announced this week shows an estimate drop of 11 or 12 per cent in spending by manufacturers this year—the training department remains relatively untouched by the ravages of cost-cutting.

However, in hallowed positions as far as the company's budget is concerned has not been questioned the training process against critical appraisal in recent months.

And while bosses' attitudes

to the idea of training rarely leave much cause for complaint many business sectors and individual organisations have come in for considerable criticism over the actual methods employed. There is often a feeling shared by the "stick and carrot" strategy of the Government's training boards, with their levy / grant / exemption schemes, has undoubtedly been a major factor in this aspect of company policy.

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And while bosses' attitudes

## Sales Manager Publishing £6,250

Our client is looking for a young, aggressive Sales Manager to lead a team which handles the list of an internationally famous publisher.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate outstanding ability and potential. Experience in a major book-publishing house would be an advantage, but is not essential.

Applicants should be between 28 and 35, and it is unlikely that anyone currently earning less than £5,000 p.a. will have the necessary experience or qualifications.

The post is based in London. The starting salary is £6,250 p.a., plus a company car and other fringe benefits.

Applications, which will be treated in strictest confidence, should be addressed personally to:

Michael Kaye,  
Sharps Recruitment Services,  
12 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7DZ  
Telephone: 01-235 1272

## Borough Solicitor & Secretary

Salary up to £11,427 per annum inclusive, plus 'Essential User' car allowance.

The post has direct responsibility for Administrative, Legal, Estates and Valuation and Public Protection services. The total staff of the Department is at present 276.

The Council has adopted a full Corporate Management approach, and the Borough Solicitor and Secretary is a member of the Management Team with co-ordinating responsibilities for land allocation and project co-ordination. Candidates should be Solicitors with a proven record of managerial ability, with extensive experience at senior level in a large local authority, and be prepared to make a major contribution to the Council's Corporate Management approach.

Relocation benefits include: temporary housing accommodation; Mortgage facilities; Legal costs up to £400; Disturbance Allowance of £100; 100% removal expenses and a temporary lodging allowance of £12 per week.

Application form and further details from the Personnel Office, Council House, London, E17 4JF (Tel: 01-527 5544 Ext. 333).

Closing date: 31st October, 1975. Quote REF: A.266

London Borough of  
**Waltham Forest**

## Divisional Operations Manager

£9,366-£10,143

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the above post which will be based at Divisional H.Q. (Bridgwater/Taunton area).

The officer appointed will be a member of the Divisional Corporate Management Team and be responsible to the Divisional Director for all operational activities within the Division.

The Division will comprise three districts each working on a multi-functional basis.

A high level of management ability will be expected and senior multi-functional experience is desirable. Experience of single function management is essential.

A regular user car allowance will be paid and assistance with relocation expenses given where necessary.

Between equally suitable candidates, preference will be given to persons presently employed by the Authority.

Applicants should apply to the undersigned for job details and application form (ref. 17/74) which must be returned by not later than 24th October to Mr. R. V. P. Bailey, Personnel Manager, Wessex Water Authority, Tackley House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 4WY.

**Wessex Water**

THE DISTILLERS COMPANY LIMITED

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS MANAGER

England & Wales

The Group Personnel Department of the Company has a vacancy for an Employee Relations Manager to advise the Group's companies on staff and labour relations matters in England and Wales where the main manufacturing activities are in carbon-dioxide and soda water production.

The person appointed will be one of a team of three senior managers responsible for the Group's Personnel Department in the United Kingdom. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Department and will have overall responsibility for the staff and labour relations matters in the United Kingdom.

Candidates, preferably aged 30-45, must have several years' experience in employee relations, including training, negotiation, grievance and disciplinary matters. A knowledge of the Industrial Relations Act 1971 and the Employment Protection Act 1975 is essential. A degree in Personnel Management or a similar qualification would be an advantage. Knowledge of current personnel practices will be expected and experience in the field of industrial relations will be useful.

Salary for this appointment will be commensurate with the responsibility of the job.

Please write giving brief details to:

THE GROUP PERSONNEL DIRECTOR,

THE DISTILLERS COMPANY LIMITED,

21 ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,

LONDON SW1X 4JF

**St. Thomas' Hospital**

The Special Trustees require an

**Administrator**

with appropriate experience in the management and investment of large funds.

A five figure salary is appropriate.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Chairman, Special Trustees, St. Thomas' Hospital, London SE1, to whom applications should be sent by 1st October, 1975.

**Appointments Vacant**

GENERAL VACANCIES

COLLEGE OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Centre for Advanced Land Use Studies

A vacancy exists for a

**SURVEYOR**

who is a graduate in estate management or who holds an equivalent professional qualification to be

**ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR**

of the Centre. Varied work in an expanding organisation, requiring imaginative and detailed planning of post-qualification education and training. Two years' experience since qualification essential.

Salary scale from 1 October, 1975: £3,390-£5,022 (subject to further review).

Closing date for applications: 7 November, 1975.

Further information and application forms from the Secretary, College of Estate Management, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AW. Telephone: Reading (0734) 861101.

**PART-TIME INCOME**

Agents required in Southern

England, 1975/76. Agents

required in Southern

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## DIRECTOR OF STUDIES IN MANAGEMENT

(Personnel Organisation and Manpower) £8,650-£11,000

The Civil Service College provides a wide range of management and training for civil servants. It is expected that when the training centres in Sandhurst, London and Edinburgh are fully developed, up to 1,000 students will be in training at any one time.

The Director of Studies in Management will be based at the Sandhurst Centre. The person appointed will be responsible, directly or through colleagues, for a range of subjects designed to develop in civil servants a rounded approach to the management of people in their work. The subjects include the theory and practice of organisation of work, the various aspects of manpower planning, allocation and control, industrial relations (including the Whitleyian), motivation, job satisfaction, etc. The Director will act as head

of a group of lecturers and will be responsible for the academic standards and performance of the Centre. Candidates should normally have a degree in the field of management, social or behavioural sciences, and must have the ability to relate theoretical concepts to the practical needs of the Civil Service. Proven skills in teaching and the ability to foster them in others are essential. Experience at a senior level in the field of staff management is highly desirable.

The appointment is pensionable and will be for an initial period of 5 years with the possibility of extension. Salary will be in the Senior Lecturer range (1975) with an application form (to be returned to Mr. R. V. P. Bailey, Personnel Manager, Wessex Water Authority, Tackley House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 4WY) and an application form (to be returned to Mr. R. V. P. Bailey, Personnel Manager, Wessex Water Authority, Tackley House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 4WY) should be sent by 1st October, 1975.

Further information and application forms from the Secretary, College of Estate Management, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AW. Telephone: Reading (0734) 861101.

**Civil Service College**

LEGAL, APPOINTMENTS

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE INVITE ALL LONDONERS...

AND OF COURSE PEOPLE OF GOODWILL WHEREVER THEY MAY BE. TO JOIN US THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, AT A GREAT PARTY.

At various venues in our own city at 9.30 a.m. activities will commence. There will be refreshments including the complimentary lunch and the contact you are invited to make with us. It will be fun and well worthwhile.

All helpers will be most welcome and will be invited to our celebration party on Saturday evening at our headquarters.

IF YOU'D LIKE THE THOUGHT OF A LITTLE JUST RING ON 01-229 8941 AND SAY "FLAG DAY"

Whether we can get the whole 8,000,000 of you at our party remains to be seen but it would be wonderful if you did help.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

FOUND SAVERS

become a found saver. In India, Europe, America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and other world-wide areas. Specialising in late bookings.

UNITED AIR TRAVELS LTD. 100-111, Victoria Road, London, W.1. Tel: 01-239 7754. (ATOL 2282)

INSURE FOR THE OLYMPICS

Insurance for the 1976 Olympic Games. 12 months from January 1, 1976. Also shorter holidays from 1976.

Full details from: SWISSAIR. N. New Coventry St. W.1. Tel: 01-733 6777 (Dpt. 17)

TUNISIAN WINTER HOLIDAYS

Travel to Tunisia. 12 months from January 1, 1976. Also shorter holidays from 1976.

Full details from: SWISSAIR. N. New Coventry St. W.1. Tel: 01-733 6777 (Dpt. 17)

TRAVELAIR

Travel to Australia. 12 months from January 1, 1976. Also shorter holidays from 1976.

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

THOMSON GIVE YOU A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY

BETTER CHOICE OF RESORTS

This season we've had France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Rhodes, Crete, and many more.

Get a brochure from Thomson Holidays, 100-111, Victoria Road, London, W.1. Tel: 01-239 7754.

THOMSON WINTERSPORTS

Superb winter investment from £190. 12 months from January 1, 1976.

Full details from: SWISSAIR. N. New Coventry St. W.1. Tel: 01-733 6777 (Dpt. 17)

FARE IS FAIR ON SCHEDULE FLIGHTS

New York from £29.00 return. 12 months from January 1, 1976.

Full details from: SWISSAIR. N. New Coventry St. W.1. Tel: 01-733 6777 (Dpt. 17)

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## HOME NEWS

## Move to avert action by junior doctors over new contract

By Neville Hodgkinson

In an attempt to avert industrial action by junior hospital doctors over a new contract, the Department of Health and Social Security said last night that the old system of contracts would be maintained until a new agreement was reached on different arrangements.

Instructions to health authorities to withdraw the previous system of allowances for junior doctors had been postponed, pending further discussions.

But according to leaders of the junior doctors last night, the suspension of the new contract was a further indication of the Government's unwillingness to negotiate with junior doctors who will lose money they thought they were about to get.

The new contract was to have reduced the starting point for rewards for extra work from 80 hours a week to 44 hours, but no new money was added overall because of the Government's wages policy. Because of this, the Government's "no-detriment" clause, up to a third of Britain's 20,000 junior doctors were facing a cut in salary.

Earlier yesterday Dr Angus Ford, deputy chairman of the Hospital Junior Staff Committee, said he feared that a proposed 24-hour strike on Monday by junior doctors at Plymouth would lead to lightning strikes in other areas.

It was the first time doctors had said they would handle emergencies though consultants in the area had said

they would try to bridge the

The negotiating committee had advised the junior doctors not to take action until after it had met the Department of Health officials next week over the dispute. Dr Ford, who works at a general hospital in Glasgow, said:

But apart from Plymouth there had been a real threat of militant action in Leicester, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Rochdale, Norfolk, Ipswich, Oxford, Cambridge, parts of London and the whole of Northern Ireland.

Dr Ford said: "What I am afraid of is that if one area goes it will snowball. We have the extraordinary situation that many consultants are backing the juniors in making a stand because of their own anger and disillusionment over issues such as private beds, private medicine and the Government's attitude to the profession generally."

Chemists' plea: The Pharmaceutical Society in a letter to Mrs Castle yesterday called for a royal commission to examine her plans to phase out pay beds and to limit the size of the private medical sector.

The Society also criticized yesterday Bupa, the private health insurance company. It says the possible removal of the private sector from the health service is folly and is urging subscribers to press MPs to seek a change of mind.

## Strike threat puts an end to TV series

London Weekend Television is to discontinue *A Joke's a Joke*, its amateur comedy show, after a strike threat by Equity, the actors' union, which contended that the programme was stealing professional material and breaking an agreement by using non-professional performers.

Earlier this week Equity threatened that unless LWT dropped the show it would call all actors, actresses and artists working for the company out on strike. The union said the show, which shows members of the public telling their own jokes, was "cheap and inferior substitute for professional light entertainment programmes". It had received angry protests from members

over the show because it "gravely damaged the interests of performers in every field in which they work".

Viewers will see the sixth in the show's series tomorrow night. LWT will end the show on October 25. It was originally scheduled for 13 parts.

A statement by the company said: "We firmly contest any allegation that in producing this programme we have acted in breach of our agreement with Equity. We are also deeply concerned that Equity should threaten industrial action before the public hearing of the dispute has begun. However, LWT places very great importance in maintaining its excellent relations with Equity and its members."

## Ulster terrorism 'communist inspired'

From George Clark  
Political Correspondent  
Blackpool

A "highly intelligent, sophisticated" communist-inspired terrorism, which, if not communist in inspiration, was akin to communism, was behind the present subversive activities in Northern Ireland, Mr Harry West, leader of the official Ulster Unionist and of the Ulster Unionist coalition in the Northern Ireland Convention, told a Monday Club meeting at Blackpool yesterday.

"We have about 2 per cent of the population in Ulster engaged in violence and terrorism," Mr West said. "This figure includes not only the thugs who pull the trigger or plant the bombs but also the members of a highly sophisticated background organization

which is arranging the campaign."

When a questioner wanted to know how Mr West could associate that organization with communism, he replied: "We cannot be certain, because it is very difficult to get information about these people. But we know they are far more intelligent than the very often innocent people who do the work for them. It is inspired from communist sources."

Mr West said the United Kingdom Government had special responsibility to see that the terrorists in Ulster and Britain, did not force a break-up of the United Kingdom. It is the potential consequences of such an event were fully realized it would cause great concern to not only the British Government and people but also to Nato, having regard to the

## Government to aid Rhodesian students

By Martin Huckerby

The Government is to provide grants for hundreds of black Rhodesian students who arrived in Britain to study at universities and colleges without any means of financial support.

The Home Office announced yesterday that the Ministry of Overseas Development would finance the studies and maintenance of those suitably qualified Rhodesian African students who arrived in Britain who had obtained places at institutions in the United Kingdom.

The Rhodesian Africans have arrived in considerable numbers, estimated at perhaps 1,500 in the past few months, although only 200 new grants had been awarded by the Government. The students' avowed aim has been to force the British Government to provide them with the education they were denied by the present regime in Rhodesia.

But while the Government has effectively given in to the pressure from the students' groups, it is taking action to ensure that the situation cannot recur by changing the conditions for immigration.

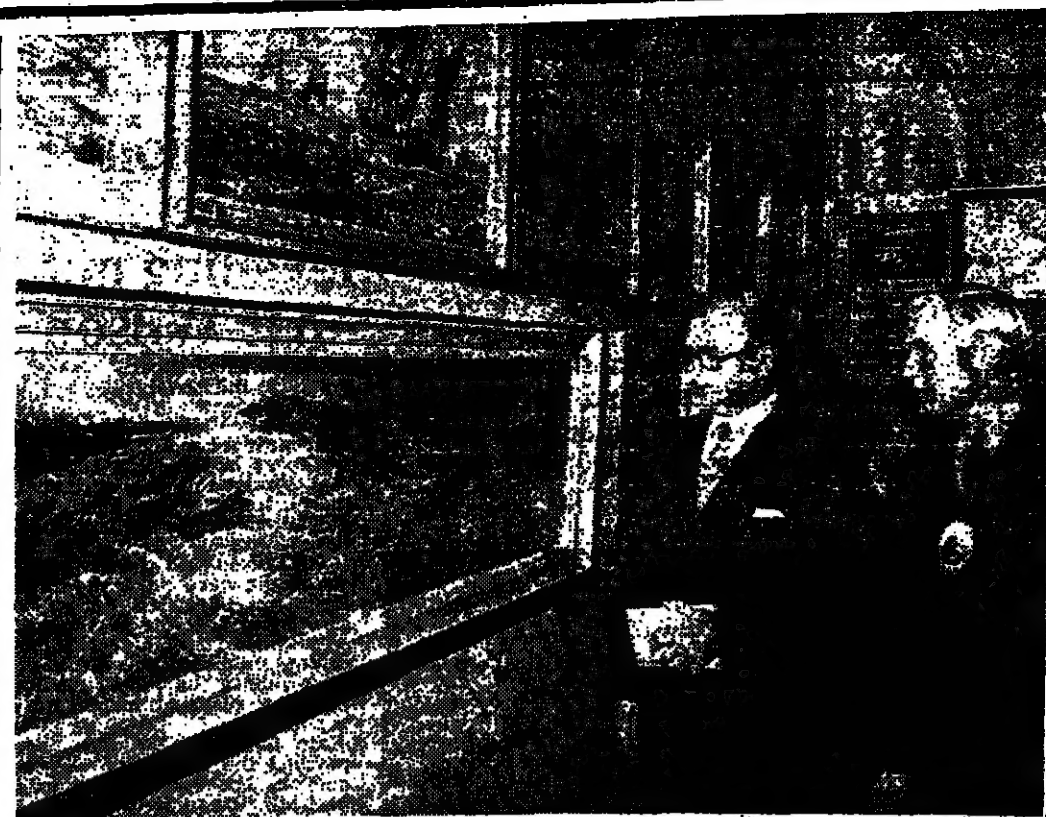
From next (Thursday) prospective African students from Rhodesia will be required to show not only that they have places in universities or other approved institutions but also that firm arrangements have been made for fees and maintenance grants before they set out for Britain.

The Home Office said yesterday: "Large numbers have been arriving since the immigration rules were relaxed for benefit of Rhodesian African students to study in their own country."

Priority for grants would be given to "students proposing to take courses that will equip them to contribute to the development of post-settlement Rhodesia".

In a further conciliatory gesture, the Home Office said that any Rhodesian African who failed to qualify for academic grants would have the restrictions from taking employment removed from their conditions of entry and would be allowed to stay in Britain and to seek work.

No definite number of students eligible for grants under the new arrangements could be provided by the Government. The students' groups are uncertain how many people have arrived in Britain. But the cost of maintaining each student will average about £1,000 a year.



Mr Keith Shackleton, the artist, right, with Sir Peter Scott, who opened The Royal Society of Marine Artists' annual exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery, London yesterday.

## 'Money crisis means universities are losing ability to fulfil their research role'

By a Staff Reporter

A warning that universities are now in danger of not being able to fulfil their research role because of the money crisis was made yesterday by Professor Sir Arthur Armitage, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals.

Speaking in London, Sir Arthur, who is also Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, said: "The essential part of research needs is provided by the universities. We now face the great danger of the loss of the research contribution and the research function to the national needs and national economy."

The vice-chancellors' committee also announced yesterday that the total full-time university student population at the beginning of the 1975-76 academic year has risen by 10,000 over last year to 261,000, the highest annual increase since 1968.

The number of new students admitted also has risen, by over 7 per cent, the highest since 1968.

Sir Arthur added that the need in present financial circumstances to leave established academic teaching posts vacant had meant that universities entered the new academic year with more than 300 positions unfilled.

The increase in students, the consequent £20m cut in grant in real terms, and the reduced

staff numbers all led to pressure on research time. Sir Arthur added that in some academic areas not enough postgraduate students were coming forward and that some important research depended on the contribution being made by postgraduate overseas students.

He said: "I think that in a period of economic difficulty the future of universities and their staffs to have been able to provide places for some 10,000 more students an increase which alone equals the present population of a large university such as Edinburgh, Leeds or Manchester."

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## Milk price talks by Cabinet

By Hugh Clayton

Recent increases in milk prices were generous, although they had not satisfied farmers, Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, said last night. "I am in closest touch with my Cabinet colleagues, including the Prime Minister, and am examining what further measures are open," he said.

He was addressing members of the National Farmers' Union in Carlisle, before leaving for a meeting of EEC farm ministers. British farmers expect him to secure a fair increase in milk prices and readjustment of the milk quota.

But Mr Peart's speech yesterday gave no hint about what he wanted from the EEC. He said he appreciated the anxiety of farmers about costs, but their difficulties, like everyone else's, had been caused by inflation.

His speech included a reminder that while the Labour Government had secured three increases in dairy returns in the past 18 months, the previous Conservative administration had not produced any. The "green pound", the EEC device for expressing farm prices in national currencies, was now 14 per cent lower than a year ago.

## Jury asked to say man was true to his principles

A jury at Stafford Crown Court was asked yesterday to say that a former lord mayor, who is accused of making false expenses claims against his council, had been honest and true to his socialist principles of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

The verdict on the councillor Arthur Cotton, who is now Deputy Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, is expected on Monday after a four-day trial.

Mr Cotton, aged 33, of the Green Star public house, Esperanto Way, Smallthorne, Stoke, has denied two charges of obtaining £413.75 by deception from Stoke City Council.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Cotton falsely claimed expenses allowance, to which he was not entitled. Mr Cotton said he was paying his wife and daughter to look after the public house while he was on council business.

Mr Peart Ashworth, for the defence, said yesterday: "You see here not one shred of evidence to suggest that these payments were not made. How could this man not be true to his own socialist principles of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay?"

Mr Cotton's daughter, Pamela, said her father paid her an additional £5 a week for the extra duty she did while he was on official council duties. The court also heard from Mr Cotton's wife that she was paid £5 a week for her extra duties.

## Bomb-case alibi backed

Evidence in support of an alibi that Paul Hill, aged 31, was in Southampton at the time of the Guildford public house bombing was given at the Central Criminal Court yesterday by Eugene Clark, aged 37, said to be his girl friend.

Mr Hill, of Barmley Crescent, Belfast, denies murdering seven people who died in the Guildford and Woolwich explosions.

Eugene Clark said she lived with her sister in Southampton while Mr Hill worked in London. He went to see her on October 3, the night of the Guildford bombing.

He arrived at about 7.30 pm and they went out drinking. She said Mr Hill was the father of her recently born baby.

## Government seeking EEC aid for Wales

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Staff

The Wales TUC was told at Downing Street yesterday that the Government has submitted the European Community more than 40 projects which it believes deserve aid from the regional development fund.

The Welsh delegation met the Prime Minister and senior ministers to demand action on the critical level of unemployment in Wales. They were told that the Government expected to know within a few weeks the outcome of its application for aid.

Ministers expect to receive a number of projects that will be accepted for aid from the European Community. The TUC left the two-hour meeting with a promise that the Prime Minister would meet the general council early next year in Wales. Meanwhile there will be a number of meetings with the Welsh Office, the Department of Employment, and the Department of Industry.

Mr Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, said after the meeting that a decision on the Welsh Office's proposals would be announced before the end of the year. It would be wrong to prolong the uncertainty.

He gave a warning that unemployment in Wales would get worse before it got better, but that the Government would help to boost employment among young people, and the programme for 36 advance factories would help to ensure that Wales was ready for the expected improvement in the economy.

He said the Government was a first-class member of the European Community. He discussed the problems of school-leavers, industrial development, steel, and the employment of Wales in the long term. We argued that recovery from recession is easier in other parts of Britain than in Wales, and we could, into 1977 with the same unemployment problems.

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## 'Panther' killing recalled

A widow told an inquest yesterday of the murder of her husband, a sub-postmaster, by the hooded intruder known as the Black Panther.

Mrs Marion Astin, aged 43, told Mr George Graham, the East Lancashire coroner, at Accrington, only a mile from the scene of the killing, that the murderer made a 4 am raid 13 months ago on the family's sub-postoffice in the village of Higher Baxendale, near Burnley, Lancashire.

Mr West said: "This figure includes not only the thugs who pull the trigger or plant the bombs but also the members of a highly sophisticated background organization

which is arranging the campaign."

When a questioner wanted to know how Mr West could associate that organization with communism, he replied: "We cannot be certain, because it is very difficult to get information about these people. But we know they are far more intelligent than the very often innocent people who do the work for them. It is inspired from communist sources."

Mr West said the United Kingdom Government had special responsibility to see that the terrorists in Ulster and Britain, did not force a break-up of the United Kingdom. It is the potential consequences of such an event were fully realized it would cause great concern to not only the British Government and people but also to Nato, having regard to the

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